

सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और सभा-घटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

**Sale of Imported Cars to persons in Madhya Pradesh**

4933. SHRI A. S. SAIGAL:  
SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the persons in Madhya Pradesh who have purchased imported cars since the 1st April, 1967 the purposes for which the cars were purchased and the price charged; and

(b) whether any attempt was made to know if the said cars were being used for the purpose for which they were purchased?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.21 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**CONVERSION OF BIRLA HOUSE INTO A NATIONAL MONUMENT**

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara): I call the attention of the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

The suggestion regarding taking over of Birla House by Government and its conversion into a national monument.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): We had sent a notice calling attention addressing it to the Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): Government fully appreciate and share the sentiments and feelings of the House and the country regarding the sacred spot

in Birla House, New Delhi, where Mahatma Gandhi attained martyrdom on 30th January, 1948. Ever since his tragic assassination, the question of this place being taken over for conversion into a national memorial has been considered from time to time. The House is aware that the portion of the garden where Gandhiji used to hold his famous prayer meetings, including the Summer House, have been isolated from the main house and that the public have free access to this area to pay homage to Gandhiji's memory. It was for this reason that even in 1955 and earlier when the matter came up for consideration, the view was taken that it was not necessary to acquire the place. As Prime Minister Nehru pointed out at that time, the prayer ground was already functioning as a kind of sacred place and any one could go there.

Government are given to understand that the owners are willing to hand over the prayer ground to them. They are accordingly considering the question of taking over the ground and of instituting arrangements for the maintenance of the ground, including the hallowed spot, with due care, dignity and solemnity, and for the provision of adequate facilities to enable the visiting public to pay homage to Gandhiji's memory.

MR. SPEAKER: The call attention notices were in different shapes. Some were addressed to the Prime Minister and some to the Minister concerned. Some were about the fast of an hon. Member of this House. There I said 'No, it is not proper.' If the fast of an hon. Member were to form the subject of a call attention notice, then every day we will have a call attention only for fasting and nothing else. Therefore, I said it would not be proper to admit it.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): It is a cruel remark. Here is a Member of Parliament on fast to draw the attention of the Government to an important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I know. Let him hear me fully. It may be so. But apart from that the substance of the subject is important, that is, the memorial.

SHRI HEM BARUA: What about the life of a Member of Parliament?

MR. SPEAKER: I am still on my legs.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर (सहरसा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न यह नहीं है . . .

MR. SPEAKER: आपके उठने से मुझे बैठना पड़ता है।

My point is that the substance of the subject is more important.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The Prime-Minister should have replied.

MR. SPEAKER: No, the concerned Minister.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: I would like to express my gratitude to my esteemed colleague, Shri Shashi Bhushan, for having embarked on an indefinite fast to highlight this issue which is eternally sacred to our people . . .

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna): I hope he will take it to the end.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: . . . and to activate the paralysed conscience of this ungrateful Government.

The martyrdom of Jesus Christ and the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi are the two most outstanding events of the supreme sacrifice in the history of mankind.

This happened 20 years ago. This Government, during the last 20 years, has done nothing; it is a matter of abject shame and disgrace that this Government has done nothing to construct a memorial.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: They have failed to construct a memorial on the plea that this building and the site belong to the Birlas. When they take over the lands of poor people, two bighas and three bighas, without giving them notice. . .

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhara): . . . or compensation.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: . . . they do not have the courage, nor the determination

to acquire this land, as is obvious from the statement made by the Minister.

The statement of the Minister is an epic in apology. He says:

" . . . the portion of the garden where Gandhiji used to hold his famous prayer meetings, including the Summer House, have been isolated from the main house and that the public have free access to this area to pay homage to Gandhiji's memory."

Any Government with a sense of gratitude would have mooted proposals to take over the entire house. They do not have the courage to take it over because they crawl in humility at the feet of the Birlas. The Prime Minister should have replied to this Calling Attention. She has no time for Mahatma Gandhi, she is more interested in political issues. I would like to point out that Birlas have no absolute right over this site because this site was leased out to the Birlas by the British Government. So there is no point in saying that we will take over only that place where Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom took place. On the contrary, the Government should take over the entire building and build a temple of peace there because the world is fast realising that Mahatma Gandhi is the only alternative to the Atom Bomb. So I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to acquire the entire building. Do not negotiate with the Birlas. You are negotiating with the Princes for privy purses and you are again negotiating with the Birlas. I want to know if there is any proposal to acquire, to take over the entire building, declare it a public monument and then build a temple of peace in memory of the Father of the Nation.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: This site where Birla House is now situated was leased to Sir Ghanshyam Das Birla in 1931 and later in 1962 it was mutated in the name of Madho Properties (P) Limited. It is not correct to say that the British Government leased it out. Even if it is leased out by British Government, how does the title to property go? The main question is: are we to take the entire property or those parts where Mahatma Gandhi used to hold his famous prayer

meetings and where he met with his martyrdom? This question has been agitating the mind of the public and the Government for the last 20 years. Therefore, Birlas have isolated that portion from the rest of the building and the public have access to it. The question is how we should improve both the site and the access to it. Whether it should be from behind from the Tughlak Road or from the 30th January Road side—all these questions are engaging the attention of the Government. Government will take over the site and improve it and see that it is properly maintained consistent with dignity.

श्री अमृत नाहाटा ( वाड़मेर ) :  
अध्यक्ष महोदय, सबसे पहला तो मैं इस सदन के माननीय तथा बहादुर सदस्य श्री शशि भूषण का अभिनन्दन करना चाहता हूँ और बधाई देना चाहता हूँ, उन्होंने सारे देश का ध्यान एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न की ओर खींचा है। . . .

SHRI PILOO MODY: That is more  
applause than Mahatma Gandhi ever got.

श्री अमृत नाहाटा : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि पीछे का जो लॉन है, उसको हम ले रहे हैं, बिरला हाउस को लेने की जरूरत नहीं है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, दो साल से यह सरकार मेरे क्षेत्र में तीस हजार लोगों और एक लाख गायों को निकाल कर उनके गांव के गांव ले रही है और दो साल से मैं स्वयं सरदार स्वर्ण सिंहजी से कह रहा हूँ लेकिन उनके कानों पर जूँ तक नहीं रेंगती है। हजारों झुग्गी-झोंपड़ीवालों को उठाकर फेंक दिया जाता है, उनके रहने का कोई इन्तजाम नहीं होता है, लेकिन जब हम कहते हैं कि बिरला हाउस को एक्वायर कर लो, तो जैसे हम कोई पाप कर रहे हैं, जैसे गजब हो जायगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, महात्मा गांधी को गोली लान में लगी थी, लेकिन उन्होंने प्राण बिरला हाउस के एक कमरे में त्यागा था, जहां महात्मा गांधीजी ने अपनी देह को त्यागा, वह स्थान

भी हमारे लिए उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है, उस पर सारी मानबता का अधिकार है, उस पर किसी एक धादमी का अधिकार नहीं हो सकता। दलील यह दी जाती है कि इसके साथ बिरलाजी के सेन्टीमेन्ट्स हैं, इसलिए वह मकान नहीं लेंगे। उनके सेन्टीमेन्ट्स के बारे में श्री कैम्पबेल जानसन ने, जो लाई माउन्टबेटन के प्रेस-एटैची थे, अपनी किताब "मिशन विद माउन्टबेटन" के पेज 284 पर लिखा है, मैं उसे पढ़कर सुनाता हूँ . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

MR. SPEAKER: This sort of running commentary is disturbing the proceedings of the House. We are not able to hear anything.

Without permission you put a question and you answer the question. Then where am I? May I appeal to all of you to let us go through it calmly. You must give serious attention to this.

श्री अमृत नाहाटा : महात्मा गांधी की हत्या के साथ जिन बातों का जिक्र यह कैम्पबेल साहब करते हैं वह इस प्रकार है :

"I have had the odd and almost eerie experience of returning to Birla House to have lunch with its fabulous owner, G. D. Birla. I had not been into the house since the night of the assassination. Now all that remained to recall to the visitor those hours of crowded confusion was the roping off of a small plot of ground in the back garden where the Mahatma had fallen, and where a commemorative stone is to be placed."

उसके आगे लिखते हैं :

"Throughout lunch the talk revolved round high finance and the prospectors of barter agreements between Pakistan and India. For the sake of argument, cotton, jute or food were disposed of or withheld. All this accent on brokerage I found in strange contrast to the scenes and sentiments in these very rooms a week ago."

[श्री भ्रमृत नाहाटा]

श्रीर भ्राज यह कहते हैं कि हमारे सेंटीमेंट हैं इसके साथ । महात्मा गांधी की हत्या हुए सात दिन भी नहीं हुए थे श्रीर सातवें दिन दावतें हो रही थीं, लेन देन की सोदेबाजी हो रही थी । कोई सेंटीमेंट नहीं है । भ्राज दिल्ली में कोई जगह नहीं है जहां सारे बच्चों को ले जाकर राष्ट्रपिता के जीवन के बारे में कुछ बताया जा सके । भ्राज तीन मूर्ति भवन एक तीर्थ स्थान बन चुका है श्रीर हम इतने कृपण श्रीर कृतघ्न हो गए हैं कि राष्ट्रपिता की यादगार में एक सुन्दर शानदार स्मारक भी नहीं बना सकते जहां उन्होंने देह त्याग किया । इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि 1947 में जिस बिड़ला परिवार के असेट 40 करोड़ थे वह भ्राज बढ़कर 400 करोड़ के असेट हो गए हैं इसीलिए हम उसके छोटे से मकान को ऐक्वायर नहीं कर सकते ? मैं मांग करूंगा कि बिड़ला भवन को ऐक्वायर किया जाए ।

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: The hon. Member has tried to equate the question of removal of *Jhuggis* and *Jhopries* with the acquisition of the Birla House. As I submitted earlier, whether the whole house should be taken, is the real point. What has been separated from the main building. . . . (Interruptions) Not the unwillingness on the part of the Government. The question is it proper to take over the whole house. The sanctity attached to the place where he used to hold the prayer meetings and where he was assassinated, that has been isolated and Government is considering the question of improving the site.

श्री स० भो० बनर्जी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं बघाई देना चाहता हूं अपने नौजवान साथी श्री शशि भूषणजी को जिन्होंने हिम्मत की कि जो सिद्धान्त कांग्रेसमैनों का था उसको सही तरीके से उन्होंने पूरा करने की कोशिश की । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं माननीय मंत्रीजी से, श्रीर मेरी खुशकिस्मती है कि इस समय प्रधान मंत्री भी यहां मौजूद हैं, कि क्या यह बात सही है कि बिड़ला हाउस,

पूरा हाउस, वह जगह नहीं कि जहां पर वह प्रार्थना करते थे या जहां पर उनको गोली लगी, पूरा हाउस बिड़ला साहब देने के लिए तैयार थे यदि उसको प्रधान मंत्रीजी के रहने का स्थान बनना जाता । माननीय कमल नयन बजाज ने कहा था श्रीर जिसको दूसरे सदन में माननीय चन्द्र शेखर ने कोट किया था, एक आर्टिकिल मैंने पढ़ा था जो मा० कमल नयन बजाज का है, कि गोली उनके उस जगह जरूर लगी थी श्रीर 'हे राम' उन्होंने उस जगह कहा हो, लेकिन दम टूटा बिड़ला हाउस में । यदि यह बात सच है तो क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि कहां पर उनका देहान्त हुआ था ? आखिरी सांस कहां टूटा ?

दूसरी चीज यह है कि हम इस सदन में बिड़ला हाउस के बारे में जब भी कुछ कहते हैं तो यह कहा जाता है कि बिड़ला परिवार का विशाल हृदय है श्रीर जो कुछ धन वह कमा रहे हैं वह सारे देश की सम्पत्ति है, अपने लिए कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं । तो उनका हृदय परिवर्तन करने की कुछ कोशिश की गई 20 साल में ? उनको यह मकान देने में एतराज क्या है ?

श्री अटल बिहारी बाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : माननीय शशि भूषण कर रहे हैं हृदय परिवर्तन ।

श्री स० भो० बनर्जी : अगर वह कर लेंगे तो बहुत अच्छा है । लेकिन हृदय परिवर्तन उसका हो सकता है जिसके पास हृदय हो । इसलिए मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं श्रीर निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जहां पर महात्मा गांधी जी ने दम तोड़ा उस बिड़ला भवन को लेने की कोशिश क्या वह करेंगी ? क्योंकि भ्राज देश में हर एक आदमी यही कहता है कि "यही हमारा नारा है, बिड़ला हाउस हमारा है ।"

An hon. Member of this House is on indefinite hunger-strike. I would urge upon the Prime Minister to say something about it. (Interruption)

**SHRI JAGANATH RAO:** My information is that Gandhiji breathed his last at the spot because of bullet wounds. That is my information, subject to correction. As I said, the same answer I have to repeat, there is no point in acquiring the whole Birla House. The sacred spot where Gandhiji died is to be maintained and improved and it will be taken care of.

**कुछ सवस्य :** प्रधान मंत्री जवाब दें तो ज्यादा अच्छा हो ।

**श्री हुकमचन्द कच्छबाय (उज्जैन) :** उनका भाज मौन धारण है, बोलेंगी नहीं ।

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order. He said that his information is that Gandhiji breathed his last at the spot where he was shot. That is what he said.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Mr. Bajaj knows it. He is there.

**SHRI KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ (Wardha):** Since my name has been mentioned. . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have not been called.

**SHRI KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ:** I am only requesting you: I am not going to speak. It is only on personal explanation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No please.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East):** Sir, on a point of order.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Point of order on the Calling Attention?

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** Point of order in regard to what was happening just now. Sir, you have your discretion. Now, there is in court such a thing as judicial presumption. I understand the Government of the day has also to be in possession of certain facts. The fact is in regard to Gandhiji dying inside Birla House where he was taken after he was shot at by an assassin which is known to the world. It should be known to the Government. That presumption, as in the case of judicial presumption, should be made

by Government. But here is a Member of the Government, Mr. Jaganath Rao, who says he does not know whether Gandhiji died inside the House or outside the House. Are we going to let the Government off when Government shows an utter sense of irresponsibility by not having this kind of judicial presumption? I want your ruling.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is absolutely no point of order.

**श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा (दौसा) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्रीमि बिड़ला हाउस के बारे में बहुत कुछ कहा गया । बिड़ला हाउस वह स्थान है जहां पर गांधी जी की हत्या की गई थी । उस स्थान की जो दुर्दशा है वह अपने आप में हृदय विदारक है । वहां पर गैलरीज में जो चित्र लगाए हुए हैं उन सबको देखने के बाद इस नतीजे पर पहुंचने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है कि सरकार ने पिछले 20 सालों में उस स्थान की, जहां पर गांधी जी की हत्या की गई थी, देख-रेख की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की । मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ और आपके जरिए से मंत्री महोदय और प्रधान मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि गांधीजी की हत्या का वह स्थान ज्यादा पवित्र है, उन मकानों में जहां गांधीजी रहे या जहां गांधीजी का सम्बन्ध रहा उनसे बिरला हाउस का एक अलग स्थान होना चाहिए क्योंकि गांधीजी की जीवन-लीला वहां समाप्त हुई और यह स्थान भारत की राजधानी में है जहां कि देश के हजारों लोग उनके दर्शनों के लिए आते-जाते हैं । उस स्थान की जब यह दशा होती है तो हमको अफसोस होता है । ऐसी स्थिति में मैं आपके जरिए से मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बिरला हाउस को लेने की दिशा में वे कदम उठावेंगे और चूंकि यह सबाल विवादास्पद है कि गांधीजी की मृत्यु कहाँ हुई इसलिए इस बारे में पहले जांच करेंगे और उसके पश्चात् यदि यह साबित हो कि गांधीजी की मृत्यु बिरला हाउस में हुई तो वे बिरला हाउस को लेने की दिशा में कदम उठावेंगे ? साथ ही मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस

[श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा]

हिस्से में गांधीजी की मृत्यु हुई, क्या उस हिस्से को गांधी शताब्दी तक अपने कब्जे में लेकर उसके लिए निश्चित तौर पर कोई योजना बनाकर, उसके इम्प्रूवमेंट की दिशा में कोई कारगर कदम उठाने का आश्वासन देंगे ? . . (व्यवधान) . . .

SHRI HEM BARUA: It is in a dilapidated condition. It is a grazing ground.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Absolute nonsense. It is a beautiful garden. (Interruptions).

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I agree with the hon. member that the site where prayer meetings used to be held by Gandhiji and where he was shot has not been properly maintained. That is why, I said that Government are taking over the site to see that it is properly maintained, consistent with the dignity and halo attached to it. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid.

12.42 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS AND COST ACCOUNTING RECORDS (TYRES AND TUBES) SECOND AMENDMENT RULES.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the Annual Reports of the following Development Councils for the year 1967-68, under sub-section (4) of section 7 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951:—

- (i) Development Council for Machine Tools Industry.
- (ii) Development Council for Sugar Industry.
- (iii) Development Council for Textile Machinery Industry.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2727/68].

(2) A copy of the Cost Accounting Records (Tyres and Tubes) Second Amendment Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2012 in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 1968, under sub-section (2) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2728/68].

GOVT. REVIEW, ON AND ANNUAL REPORT OF, BHARAT ALUMINIUM COMPANY.

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 the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1967-68 (Hindi and English versions).
- (2) Annual Report of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1967-68 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2729/68].

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS OF COIR BOARD AND NOTIFICATION RE: BENGAL NAGPUR COTTON MILLS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH): On behalf of Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Certified Accounts of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1967-68 and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2730/68].
- (2) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 4205 published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1968, regarding management of the Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, Ltd.,