

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, September 4, 1972/Bhadra
13, 1894 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) Sir I gave some notices with regard to the take-over of Shaw Wallace it is a very scandalous thing because millions of rupees of black foreign exchange amassed in Switzerland, Tangiers and Hong Kong by R P Goenka and K P Goenka group is being utilised to take over Shaw Wallace which is a good company I have given you notice I have got some materials Today is the last day We may not be able to say anything for the next two months

MR SPEAKER Unless I call you, do not get up For the last three days all the time you are telling me this is the last day and so you should be allowed to say something This is the third last day Everything that was allowed on the first day will come up I think that you should be satisfied with that On that day you came up with something again on the second last day and then this is the third last day After all there should be some limit to these things

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I have written to you and given notice to you seeking your permission on a matter which is vitally important

MR SPEAKER You do not care to get my permission yet you do not know whether I have given it or not,

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SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I wait for your permission now

MR SPEAKER Should I treat this also as the last day?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore) Yes, Sir, thanks to Mr Raj Bahadur First, second and then the fourth

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS SHIPPING
AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ
BAHADUR) Thanks to you not
to me

MR SPEAKER There are many matters which are strictly State subjects

11 04 hrs

Re QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) Let us take up the privilege issue involving Mr A K Shah

MR SPEAKER I have decided to send it to the Privileges Committee

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Shall I quote the relevant part of May's Parliamentary Practice?

MR SPEAKER You quote it when I do not agree As you said, there are three parts of that privilege motion One was under prosecution Previously I had decided to refer only two but now I think they could not be separated from each other and I had referred the whole matter to the Privileges Committee—all the three parts Kindly do not thump the tables That annoys certain people here Now, what am I to do about those matters which are purely State matters?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU, As for example?

11.05 hrs.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
RAISED BY MEMBERS—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kathamuthu.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU (Nagapattinam): Sir, I would like to raise a matter of serious public importance. In my constituency, students of an arts college have been demanding the opening of a train halt. But the railway authorities have not taken any action for the last two years. Because of that, a serious situation developed on the 25th of last month and there were clashes between railway workers and students, resulting in injuries to 45 students and railway workers. Subsequently arrests are going on. There is strike by railway workers in Tanjore and in the branch lines. Even in the main line, trains have to be diverted through other routes. Because of the inordinate delay on the part of the railway authorities, a serious situation has developed and I request the Railway Minister through you to open a train halt at Kidrangondan between Thiruvavur and Adiakkamangalam in the Southern Railway.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Myself, Shri Dandavate and those concerned with labour matters, including Mr. Kulkarni and Mr. Stephen on the Congress side, have been raising the question of increasing the minimum bonus from 4 to 8.33 per cent. During the earlier discussion, Mr. Khadilkar told us that he is awaiting the interim report of the Madan Committee—the Bonus Review Committee. I am sure you have read the newspapers today, Sir, where it is said:

“No accord on minimum bonus—The bonus review committee concluded its meeting today with no unanimity among the members on the quantum of minimum bonus to be recommended in the interim report with regard to concerns making no profits. Mr. Madan, Chairman, told waiting newsmen that the report will be submitted on the 11th”.

The workers' representatives on the committee belonging to the various trade union organisations like the AITUC, INTUC and HMS are one that the minimum bonus should be raised from 4 to 8.33 per cent. They are also in favour of expanding the scope of this committee to include public undertakings and Central Government departments like Defence, Railways and P. & T. It is most unfortunate that Government has not yet made up its mind on this issue. A delegation on behalf of the AITUC would have already met the Prime Minister at 10 A.M. today. After the strike by more than 1 lakh textile workers in Bombay, a wave of strikes will follow. Sir, today is the last day of the session and I request the Labour Minister through you or the Prime Minister to make a statement that the increase in minimum bonus will be implemented by Government without awaiting the report of the bonus review committee.

Secondly, it is known to the entire country that the figure of the cost of living index has not only reached but crossed 238 and is now 240. So, the Central Government employees who are seething with discontent should be paid interim relief without waiting for the reply of the Pay Commission. Fortunately, Shri Ganesh is here and I hope he will take the necessary step. Sir, I would request you to ask the Ministers to make a statement on these two points.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Imparting education is a profitable trade in Kerala. Some of the educational institutions were charging from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000 for admission to classes starting from pre-degree to M.Sc. When the students protested against it and the Government decided to take over all educational institutions the managements decided to close down their institutions pending a settlement. Negotiations went on for quite some time, they came to Delhi and got certain categorical assurances from the Prime Minister and then they returned to Kerala and opened their institutions. Now they are insisting that students wanting admission should produce a letter from

the priest of the church. Because of the insistence on this letter from the priest of the catholic church for admission, the students seeking admission in such institution are put to a lot of difficulties. I would request the Minister to make a statement on this.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: I would repeat what Shri Banerjee said about bonus. It is now clear that there can be no question of unanimity in their reviewing committee and they are trying to water down the whole issue. Government is committed to a minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent. Now they are trying to discriminate between those concerns which are making profits and those which are not making profits and between those which are directly connected with production and which are not directly connected with production like railways, posts and telegraphs etc. Today being the last day of the session, we will not get an opportunity to raise it again. In the eastern region the movement or agitation for bonus has already started. All the trade unions, irrespective of party affiliations, are united in making this demand that irrespective of whether there is profit or not whether an industry is directly connected with production or not, the employees should get a minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent. So, I would request you to ask the Minister to make a statement. Otherwise, what is the use of wasting the time of the House in raising this issue?

Secondly, the cost of living index has reached 240. Therefore, Shri Ganesh should be bold enough to make an announcement here and now that Government will give increased dearness allowance to their employees.

SHRI B S BHAURA (Bhatinda): I want to raise a point about the continuous strike in the Engineering College, Chandigarh for more than 10 days. It is reported in the press also that the students have been ordered to vacate the hostels. The repressive measures are being used against the students who are on strike for their just demands.

Chandigarh being a Union Territory, I would request the Central Government to intervene in the matter. I would request the Minister to make a statement.

My second point is, as you are aware, Sir, that the Punjab branch of the C. P. I. has levelled serious charges against the former I.G. of Police who is now the I.G., B.S.F. Serious charges of corruption, nepotism and misuse of power while in office by former I.G. of Police have been levelled. I would request the Central Government to institute a high-power inquiry against this gentleman. Serious charges have been levelled and the matter should have been given to the C.B.I. I would request the Central Government to order an inquiry against this gentleman.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Samar Guha, kindly confine yourself to one subject. It is difficult to allow to many points to be raised. In future, I am not going to allow more than one point. He has raised the matter of Uganda; Asians; about the Food Ministry, the Hippies and all that.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd.): I had only asked the Minister to make a statement. I want to know when the Minister will make a statement. I also asked about the statement to be made in regard to passport and visa system that has been introduced between Bangladesh and India. The Government has not made any statement about it. The House has not been informed about it.

Then, Sir, you must have seen the statement today that most of the Hippies are being expelled from South East Asia. The Hippies have become a nuisance. I want to know from the Government whether they are allowing the Hippies from South East Asia to India and corrupt the minds of our youth.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu:

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar): I have to mention only one subject . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't get impatient. They gave their intimation in time, much advance of the

[Mr. SPEAKER]

time fixed. You have just sent it and you want to lead them all in the queue. I am not going to allow those who have sent chits to me while I am sitting here. I am only allowing those which came in time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I have given a Calling Attention Notice . . .

MR. SPEAKER: No Calling Attention are to be referred in the House. Kindly don't do it; don't do it every day.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: No intimation has been given to us earlier to give such kind of intimation. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Don't take advantage of your ignorance.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I plead my ignorance. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The other day also, you gave this explanation that you were ignorant. I thought during this interval, you must have tried to remove this ignorance.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: The subject is so important that on 7th September, all the Central Government employees are going. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record; I have not called him

SHRI A. P. SHARMA:**

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मन्दासौर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा पीइंट ग्राफ ग्राईडर है। लोक सभा को माननीय सदस्य श्री ईश्वर चौधरी के सम्बन्ध में एक जानकारी . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब मैं बुलाऊंगा तब यह विषय आयेगा, अभी तो नहीं आयेगा।

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : लोक सभा को गलत जानकारी दी गयी, यह मैं बताना चाहता हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER: That is already before me. Unless I call you, you should not get up. Please sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We have been discussing about R. P. Goenka Group and the take over of Balmer Lawrie & Company by Government. This R. P. Goenka Group has been involved in serious economic offences. It has come out that they have managed to strike a deal with regard to take-over of Shaw Wallace & Co. by paying through their London counterpart, Dunken Goodricks & Co. to R. P. Shah in black foreign exchange money accumulated in Switzerland, Tangiers and Hong Kong. Government has a lot of stake in that. Government has shares in Shaw Wallace to the extent of Rs. 17½ lakhs. They have made a profit of 27.5 per cent in the last year and the entire preferential is owned by Government. The most dangerous thing today—we shall discuss this again in the debate on Wanchoo Committee Report—is the black money that goes out of this country in the shape of foreign exchange at a premium; it is accumulated in Swiss banks under a code number; they give you an over draft in white money and with that while foreign exchange this Goenka Group has acquired Shaw Wallace through Dunken Goodricks and R. P. Shah at London. This is a very serious matter. It is another serious economic offence being committed. If Government could take over the companies which have liabilities, which are sinking Companies why do they not take over the companies which are really profitable and which are really assets? I ask the Government to intervene immediately in the matter of Shaw Wallace & Company and take it over at once if they really want to mean business.

Secondly, I want to draw your attention and also the attention of the House to an editorial written in the *Indian Express* today. This is a serious matter. It should concern every member of the House. It is said:

"The ham-handed tactics resorted to by some of the clowns who masquerade as the Government's spokesmen in the Lok Sabha strains one's cre-

dibility in the capacity of small men to exercise their small minds".

It should concern you the most, Sir. This is a front-page editorial written by a well known journalist of the country, Mr. Frank Moraes I do not agree with him on many things, but when he has pointed out something which concerns Lok Sabha, I most humbly request you, Sir, to ask the hon Prime Minister to make a statement on the editorial which has come in the front page of the *Indian Express*. About Shaw Wallace would you be so kind to ask the Minister of Company Affairs to make a statement before the House adjourns to-day as to what they propose to do?

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): In the discussion on the Wanchoo Committee report

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: My friend, Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu has referred to a certain editorial in a newspaper. . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They called you as clowns.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I would say that while we, on this side, tried to provide all the necessary time for debates and discussions in the House, you might know, Sir, in this session we had to adjourn on two days on account of the sad demise of two members. Hence, the pressure at the end of the session. Apart from that, we have never said that we do not owe a responsibility to the House to maintain the quorum. At the same time, when they are also anxious to have a debate—they are as many—160 members on their side—let it not be forgotten by them that if they are serious enough, about a discussion they should also have co-operated with us. (*Interruptions*). If you are interested in a particular matter, it should be brought out clearly. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr Raj Bahadur, Why are you permitting this controversy?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There must be a balanced view taken and an objective view taken, not a par-

tisan view. We have, got great respect for the editor who put out that editorial. But, we cannot say that that editorial is not partisan or that it is balanced, fair or objective.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They called you clowns.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I do not know why you have allowed him to raise this controversial issue. He is talking about Duncan Bros. and other things

MR. SPEAKER: He referred to it. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You read this. May I lay it on the Table?

MR. SPEAKER: No It need not be laid

SHRI PILOO MODY: This being the last day of session, won't you take a more generous view and allow me to say a couple of words? I would not take more than a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Couple of words about what?

SHRI PILOO MODY: About the disturbed situation in Jaipur.

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to that later on. But something he has brought in between . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Have you read this editorial?

As custodian of the Lok Sabha. . .

MR. SPEAKER: I do not cherish it much because quorums do fail in the House sometimes and sometimes there is a lot of noise in the House from one side or the other. But I must say that we should not give any chance for such comments in future. It is not only a duty of all of us to maintain quorum and also to see that the debate goes on smoothly on the items that are there on the agenda. But the language in which this is mentioned has not been very pleasing to me . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mishraji, luckily he has thrown all the burden on the Treasury Benches. He forgot that you also owe some duty to the House. The Opposition also owe a duty to maintain certain strength in the House. Now, the main objection was from your side . . .

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose*,

MR. SPEAKER: One at a time please.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I strongly object that this incident be reduced to a question of quorum alone. It is not an incident connected with only quorum. There are great many overtones and by allowing this sort of debate and trying to restrict it to the issue of quorum, I think, is doing more damage to the incident and I plead with Mr. Raj Bahadur, 'Do not reduce it to a matter of quorum alone'. Let the debate on the substantial issues go on. If you like let it go on behind the doors, but, let us not reduce this thing to a mockery and say that it is all because of quorum.

MR. SPEAKER: Both sides have a duty to see that the quorum is maintained.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as the issues to which Mr. Piloo Mody is referring, the Government is equally anxious to state its position both with regard to the Food Corporation of India and the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee Report and the insinuations in this particular paper . . . (*Interruptions*) is rather mischievous.

MR. SPEAKER: After the whole matter was settled there and you extended the session for one day more, these should not have been brought into the House—these comments—by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu. But once you have brought it, I cannot but bring it to your notice that irrespective of this side or that side, kindly see that it is the duty of the House to keep the quorum.

We should see that the debate goes on without disturbance. To reduce the strength of the quorum is not a good tactics I must say this. But at the same time we should not invite unfair comments on it and then be very proud of it.

MR. JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We are not proud.

MR. SPEAKER: I feel very sad at it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am feeling very sad.

MR. SPEAKER: We all feel very sad.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Would you consider evenly distributing strictures and wise words between ruling party and opposition? Many a time we have found that we have been subject to more strictures than the ruling party. The other day you said, minority obstructs the majority which is not so kind to some of us.

MR. SPEAKER: When I say something to them I have a right to say something to you also and to invite your attention to certain things. I also feel that when that matter was settled the other day it would be quite improper for Mr. Bosu again to introduce this matter. It was settled already. All of us in a good spirit finished the matter. It should not have been brought up today.

MR. JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order, arising out of what you have just now said. The strength of the House is 2:1 as between the ruling party and the opposition. That means 35 and 18. On that day we had 28. I must say that Mr. Frank Moraes has done a particular service to this House and to the country in what he has written.

MR. SPEAKER: We may run short of quorum a number of times; we may be lacking here and there. You accuse each other a number of times; I also participate; I also give my comments; but when the comments come from outside, I have not been able to appreciate them.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA (Hapur): That is not desirable.

SHRI PILOO MODY: May I make a submission on this issue? I do not think that the Lok Sabha should be touchy about what people write about them.

MR. SPEAKER: They are not . . .

SHRI PILOO MODY: It is not material who made that comment, Mr. Frank Moraes or somebody else, but what is material is that the Press should write and should have the right to comment as it sees fit on

anything that we do in this House, and I think, the entire matter is something that we should heed in order to improve ourselves. We should not try to pass strictures against somebody who sees us in a bad light

MR SPEAKER At times, Mr. Pilo Mody, we see a lot in the Press They do not spare any one of us We have all respect for them Sometimes the comments are a little harsher, sometimes they are balanced, sometimes they are pleasant My view is this, so far as observation on these procedures are concerned It is a different matter what they write about debate There may be some procedural lacuna or some other difficulty may arise in the House, and on that also we see this The rules do not provide for anything and everything They should not give such loud stretch of imagination and use some harsh words about one side That is all that I would say I had made a request to him that when the Government had rectified it and everything had been settled, there was no need for further comments by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, and I hope that he agrees to my request

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I shall agree to your request, but now I become entitled to make a further submission What did it reveal? It revealed—I have already written to you about this—the ruling party's loss of confidence in the Government itself

MR SPEAKER I have to tell Shri Shyamnandan Mishra that it was the duty of the Opposition side also to see that the numbers were kept

SHRI K S CHAVDA (Patan) At that time, our number was 28

MR SPEAKER I cannot suppress my feeling over this that when the Opposition had a strength of 160, at least 50 could have remained present on their side

SHRI P K DEO (Kalahandi) We have only one-third responsibility

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU We were 28, although the ratio is only 2:1.

11 37 hrs

RE ARREST AND DETENTION OF MEMBER

MR SPEAKER Shri Ishwar Chaudhry had seen me in my room He says that the Superintendent of the Patna jail had sent some wrong information I am sending it for verification and as soon as it comes, I shall take action on it

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मदसौर)
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कुछ कहना चाहूँगा।

MR SPEAKER He has already seen me in that connection

आप इस वक्त कुछ न कहें।

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : अध्यक्ष महोदय लोक सभा में इस सम्बन्ध में जो पत्र मिले हैं उन्हीं से यह बात कान्ट्राडिक्ट हो जाती है।

MR SPEAKER Unless I allow it, how can he raise it? I am going to verify it

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, 16 अगस्त को बुलेटिन में दिये गये पत्र में कहा गया है "तदानुसार, श्री ईश्वर चौधरी, सदस्य, लोकसभा, को 10 अगस्त, 1972 को 15 15 बजे गिरफ्तार किया गया और 1,000 रुपये के बंध पत्र के अभाव में 24 अगस्त, 1972 तक केन्द्रीय कारावास, पटना, में रखा गया।" लेकिन 2 सितम्बर को बुलेटिन में दिये गये पत्र में कहा गया है, "मुझे आप को सूचित करना है कि श्री ईश्वर चौधरी, सदस्य, लोक सभा, को 28 अगस्त 1972 को व्यक्तिगत जमानती मुचलके पर रिहा किया गया।"

पहले पत्र में कहा गया कि माननीय सदस्य को 24 अगस्त तक जेल में रखा गया और दूसरे पत्र में कहा गया कि उन को 28 अगस्त को रिहा किया गया। प्रश्न यह है कि यह चार दिन का अन्तर कैसे हो गया।

MR SPEAKER I do not know on whose intimation the superintendent gave this information.