

House on the 7th April and 16th November, 1967 respectively, is of the opinion that the Government has miserably failed to implement the licensing policy in a manner so as to curb the concentration of wealth in a few hands as directed by the Constitution and has deliberately pursued a policy influenced by big capitalist interests which has resulted in the growth of big industrial houses to the detriment of progress of socialist economy in this country." (1)

MR. SPEAKER : I will now put the substitute motion No. 1 which has been read out just now by Mr. Kundu.

The substitute motion No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Banerjee's motion also is there.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I will read it. It says : That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely :

"This House, having considered the Interim and Final Reports on Industrial Planning and Licensing Policy by Dr. R. K. Hazari, laid on the Table of the House on the 7th April and 16th November, 1967 respectively, holds the Government responsible for showing favoritism in the matter of granting licences and therefore recommends to Government;—

- (i) to amend the Companies Act banning donations to Political Parties; and
- (ii) to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the whole affair." (2)

MR. SPEAKER : I will now put Mr. Banerjee's substitute motion No. 2 to the House.

The substitute motion No. 2 was put and negatived.

18.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
—Contd.

REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF POLICE CONSTABLE BY CHINESE EMBASSY RED GUARDS—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dwivedy.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : I have already called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs:

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now make his statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : We have been informed by the Delhi Administration that on March 6, 1968 constables Ghanisham Parshad and Ram Richpal Singh of 24th Btn. of the C.R.P. were returning at about 15.15 hrs. from beat duty in Railway Colony at Sardar Patel Marg to Police Station, Chanakyapuri. They were in uniform. They took a short cut through the Chinese Embassy premises by entering from one of the gates on Nyaya Marg and emerged on the main gate on Shanti Path. When the two constables had come out of the main gate of the Embassy, they were called back by the gate-keeper Bir Bahadur of the Chinese Embassy. One of them, namely, Ghanisham Parshad complied and entered the gate. Bir Bahadur caught hold of him and took him inside the room meant for the gate-keeper and forcibly detained him. Soon after this some Chinese and others came from the main Embassy building and took Ghanisham Parshad inside the main building.

2. At about 17.15 hours the Station House Officer told another Chowkidar of the Embassy, Suraj Bahadur, to inform the Chinese inside the main building that the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Sub-Divisional Police Officer would like to talk to them about the detained constable. After some time he returned and intimated that the Chinese would not talk to the local authorities but would deal only with the Ministry of External Affairs. After about 15 minutes the Sub-Divisional Magistrate spoke on telephone to the Chinese authorities in the Embassy and requested them to release the constable. His request was turned down and he was told that they would deal only with the Ministry of External Affairs.

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

3. Around 5-30 p.m. the Chinese Embassy informed the Protocol Department of the Ministry of External Affairs alleging that an intruder into the Embassy premises had been apprehended by them and that they would like to hand him over before Protocol Officer known to them. The Protocol Department of the Ministry of External Affairs advised the Chinese Embassy to release the Constable to the security personnel stationed outside the Embassy building. But on the insistence of the Chinese Embassy that they would hand over the person concerned only to an official of the Ministry of External Affairs who is known to them, two Protocol Officers of the Ministry of External Affairs proceeded to the Chinese Embassy around 6 P.M. Since by 7 P.M. neither the two Protocol Officers nor the detained Constable emerged from the Chinese premises, the Ministry of External Affairs put through a telephone call to the Chinese Embassy demanding that the Police Constable should be allowed to leave the Embassy immediately. Since the Chinese Embassy personnel prevaricated, the Ministry of External Affairs summoned the Chinese CDA to come to the Ministry forthwith. Thereupon the Chinese Embassy informed the Ministry that the Constable had left their premises.

The two constables have stated that they did not know that it was improper to go through the Embassy Premises. Constable Ghanisham Parshad has further stated that he was forcibly detained in the first instance by the chowkidars and later by the Chinese inside the main building. He was not allowed to go until he was prepared to give it in writing to the Chinese that he had come into the Chinese Embassy premises. He was made to write and sign a statement inside the Embassy.

5. A case under section 365 I.P.C. that is, abducting a person with the intention to cause him to be secretly and wrongfully confined, has been registered on a complaint lodged by constable Ram Richpal Singh.

6. The Government of India take a serious view of the illegal detention of an Indian national specially a policeman in uniform in the Chinese Embassy premises and extorting a statement from him. The Chinese Embassy should have handed over the police-

man to the local authorities immediately and taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs in the normal course. A note has been sent to the Chinese Embassy strongly protesting against their high-handed and illegal action in detaining and extorting a statement from an Indian official.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :
 It is a matter of shame that such a statement has come from the Government. I do not know whether any Government is existing in this country. Now, who was kidnapped? Believing what he says to be true—I do not know whether this is a statement which can be relied upon—but according to him..

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE (Monghyr) :
 Fabrication.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :
 Believing this to be true, the person concerned was the security staff. The security staff was provided in order to protect the Chinese Embassy. If there was a short cut by which they had passed, they must have passed that way before also. Now, what was the reason for which he was arrested? I do not know, the Minister who is staying next door, Shri Karan Singh, he may be kidnapped one day and the same explanation may be forthcoming. There is no security in this country. If the security staff itself is in danger, I do not know who will provide security for this country. If this Government had any sense of honour, it would have cut off diplomatic relations with China long ago. Since they have not done that, let us not create a Chinese Island in the capital city, and permit them to do anything they like. So, will they now at least consider withdrawing diplomatic immunities from the officers of the Chinese Embassy who stay here? Since they violate all our laws, they should not be given any immunity at all. Are they prepared to do it?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :
 What is the question?

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :
 I would also like to know why some of them have not been arrested. They should have been arrested and put into prison.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :
 A case has been registered against the

chowkidar and he will be prosecuted in accordance with law. Whatever the law provides, we shall do that. . . .(interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : I have asked a specific question. There have been repeated violations of our law by the Chinese Embassy here. It is not a single instance. It had happened before also. Once when a postman was going to deliver a letter, he was kidnapped and some confession statement was taken from him. So, it is high time some action is taken. Since the Prime Minister is also present, I want a specific answer from her whether they would withdraw diplomatic immunities from the officials who are in the Chinese Embassy.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We are at present concerned with this incident. I do not think that I am called upon to say anything about the larger question of diplomatic relations with the Republic of China. Here I am only concerned with the kidnapping case. . . .(interruptions)

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : Sir, it is an affront to the whole House. We are all agitated over it and yet the head of the Government is sitting here without saying anything. . . .(interruptions)

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : Are they prepared to do it ? Let the Government say that they are prepared to give consideration to it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dwivedy has put a question and the Minister has said, "I cannot answer about cutting off diplomatic relations and all that." He has also said that it is a bigger question and he cannot answer that question. All these are questions which perhaps the Cabinet will have to consider. The Minister replying has answered that question; it is not as though he has not answered it. It may not be satisfactory, but the Home Minister cannot say that diplomatic relations will be cut off.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : I agree that it is a larger question and off-hand they may not say that. But they should have decided it long ago. The specific question I have put today is not about cutting off of diplomatic relations. Will

they withdraw diplomatic immunity provided to those officers because they are not entitled to it after what they have done ? The Prime Minister should tell us whether they are thinking in the matter. It is a serious matter. I do not think the Government is at all concerned about the security of this country.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA
rose—

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : It is some sort of impertinence that once again that Minister is getting up to answer it. The Prime Minister should answer it.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna) : With whom has the case been filed ?

SHRI RANGA : What did he say ?

MR. SPEAKER : He said that it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : I would like to raise a point of order. The point of order is that the answer must be specific; it cannot be evasive. When the Minister of State answers the question he answers it on behalf of the Government. The question has been put by Shri Dwivedy so ably, that diplomatic immunity should be withdrawn and the Minister has to answer that. He cannot say that he will not answer it.

MR. SPEAKER : He has answered it. The Minister has said that it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI S. KUNDU : He said, "No, I cannot answer that question." You are the defender of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : I know. But he has said that it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal) : On a point of order, Sir. A specific call-attention notice has been given with regard to the kidnapping of our police constable by the Chinese Embassy. To that a specific answer has been given by the Minister. He has stated the facts and has

[Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah]

said that as per the law action is being taken. The question is specific and the answer also is specific. Now they cannot try to traverse the entire gamut of breaking off diplomatic relations and all that.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Shri Sondhi.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (South Delhi) : This is a most serious matter and I think the correspondent of the *Hindustan Times* has done a national duty—I feel, young men like him are a real asset to the profession of journalism—by bringing this incident into the open in spite of a concerted effort by the authorities to suppress this matter and misguide the public.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, shame.

MR. SPEAKER : Now come to the question.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Although the immediate cause of the border dispute led people to think, including that gentleman there sent from Mars, that the Chinese invasion of India had taken place, there is no gainsaying the fact that the mood of unreality which permeated this Government enabled the Chinese to engage in systematic efforts to destroy the image of India as a major power. It is clear that the Chinese have flouted international convention and have taken actions which are grave provocations. The External Affairs Ministry and the Home Ministry must bear responsibility for the detention of an Indian citizen for four hours, from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. There are public witnesses and I charge the Minister of Home Affairs of frightening these witnesses and telling them to go away.... (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, shame !

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : The Correspondent of the *Hindustan Times*, I am told, has been threatened by his officials. The police in Chanakyapuri whom I know well, because they voted for me during the elections, have been put under pressure and this case was registered late in the evening. What is this registration ? Against whom is

the case registered and under what charges ? The whole thing is such a make-believe and hocus-pocus. Now, I come to the questions because, naturally, you will ask what are the questions.

Will the Government form a Committee consisting of Members of Parliament to find out the truth of the matter and go into it ? Will the Government immediately deport the offending diplomats ? Will the Government take steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents and consider the suggestion to break off diplomatic relations ? What preventive steps have been taken ? I myself go there very often, in the morning and in the evening, for a walk. If I am kidnapped, well imagine.... (Interruption) My final question is : What about the Indian families in Peking ? Can they be protected ? Will any preventive steps be taken ? I have this paper cutting with me which says that the Indians in Peking will be evacuated.

MR. SPEAKER : This is about Delhi, not about Peking.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : These are specific questions. If I am excited, it is not because I have not thought over the matter but it is because, in this House, we must feel on such questions, we must feel as Indians.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Nobody has been threatened and what the hon. Member has said is not correct. As far as the Committee of M.Ps is concerned, I do not think it is necessary. We are taking all the action; we are taking a serious view of the matter and we shall act according to international practices and our law. As far as diplomatic relations are concerned...

MR. SPEAKER : What about the case, registered against whom ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : A case has been registered against the Indian chowkidar.... (Interruptions).

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, shame !

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : This is an insult to an Indian.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : I would like to know whether he is an Indian ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order; kindly sit down.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The hon. Members must allow me to complete my answer and only then come to a conclusion. Actually, when the case was reported....

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : If it is an Indian, you should withdraw the case....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The report was against the chowkidar as well as the diplomatic personnel of the Chinese Embassy. But, according to the international practices and diplomatic immunity, the case cannot be registered like this. The reporting official registered the case against the Chinese personnel of the Embassy as well as the chowkidar.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : At what time?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : But, according to the international practices or the diplomatic immunity, the case can be proceeded with only against the Indian employees of the Chinese Embassy.

With regard to the other question of the hon. Member, I have already answered about the breaking off of the diplomatic relations, etc. I do not think the Indian families in Peking come into the question here.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : Why not ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vishwanath Pandey—absent; Shri K. N. Tiwary.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : The hon. Minister says this question does not arise. This was a responsible statement made in August that Indian families will be evacuated....(Interruptions).

SHRI S. KUNDU : They do not enjoy diplomatic immunity against a criminal action. (Interruption)

श्री क० ना० तिबारी (बेतिया) : इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि यह घटना पहली नहीं है। इस तरह की घटनायें पहले भी हो चुकी हैं और इस तरह की घटनाओं से ऐसी भावना उत्पन्न हो जाती है कि चाइनीज एम्बेसी और चाइनीज गवर्नमेंट का कोई आदमी हमारे

खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई कर सकता है और हम निःस्वहाय देखते रहेंगे। हम में ताकत नहीं है कि हम उनके खिलाफ कुछ कर सकें।

मंत्री महोदय ने जो जवाब दिया है उसमें बतलाया है चौकीदार पकड़ा गया है क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तानी को ही पकड़ने का कानून है। अगर यह चौकीदार हिन्दुस्तानी है तो उसको तुरन्त छोड़ देना चाहिये।

मैं यह सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिन लोगों ने हमारे आदमी को पकड़ कर एम्बेसी में ले जा कर रक्खा, उनके विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करने में आपको क्या दिक्कत है और आपने क्यों उनके खिलाफ कोई केस रजिस्टर नहीं किया है? क्या आपने उनको अरेस्ट करने के लिये कोई इन्तजाम किया है?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने इसके बारे में बतलाया कि जितनी भी कानूनी कार्रवाई हो सकती है वह हम कर रहे हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य : नहीं कर रहे हैं।

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : It is fantastic; it is a lie....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can only conduct the proceedings of the House. I cannot give a reply to his satisfaction....

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : You may direct him, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of directing. This is about something which has happened. He has given the reply. The reply may be satisfactory or may not be satisfactory. But the point is that we should conduct the proceedings of this House in a peaceful atmosphere. When these gentlemen who put the questions, for instance, Mr. Dwivedy and the others, said that the answers were not satisfactory, I allowed them to put questions again and again, twice or thrice....(Interruptions) I know, it is a serious matter. I have no opinions. The Chair has no opinions; the Chair cannot express an opinion whether it is satisfactory or not. It is not proper. Then,

[Mr. Speaker]

I will not be able to conduct the proceedings of the House at all. If I take sides and begin saying things, then I will not be able to conduct the proceedings of the House at all. Therefore, I would only make an appeal to the members. The names of five gentlemen are here. Mr. Pande is not here, but the other four are here. If the reply is not satisfactory, I have been allowing them to get up and seek clarifications. But if a dozen people get up and shout, what is it that I can do ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) :
मामला उलझ रहा है। वह हिन्दुस्तानी चौकी-
दार है।

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kachwai cannot do this every time. Others are also Indians. He is not the only Indian. There are others also....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : But their skins are too dense.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I seek your protection, Sir. You can ask them to give an answer. They may give a positive answer or a negative answer, but they have no right to sit like sphinx. If they want to sit like sphinx, they should go to Egypt and sit there. But in this House, they should open their lips and say something.

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister has been answering. I can only say that he has been answering. For this side, it may be satisfactory and for that side, it may not be satisfactory. Mr. Tiwary has put a question and he has also got the right to hear the answer. Then I am going to call Mr. Kameshwar Singh also. First, let Mr. Tiwary's question be answered.

श्री बिद्याचरण शुक्ल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा मैंने पहले कहा, हम लोग इस प्रश्न को बहुत गम्भीर दृष्टि से देखते हैं और इसके लिये जो भी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय तरीके हैं, जो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून हैं उनके अन्तर्गत जो भी कड़ी से कड़ी कार्रवाई हो सकती है हम करने के लिये तैयार हैं और करेंगे। यही मैंने कहा है और इससे माननीय सदस्यों को सन्तोष होना चाहिये।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : जो सरकार इसके सम्बन्ध में कदम उठायेगी क्या सदन को भी बतायेगी कि कौन-से कदम उसने उठाये हैं और उसका नतीजा क्या रहा है ?

श्री बिद्याचरण शुक्ल : अवश्य बतायेंगे।

SHRI RANGA : On a point of order. Yesterday, the House was sitting till eight o'clock. All these things had happened before that. Was it not the duty of the Government and the Home Ministry to have brought to the notice of this House such an extraordinary happening as this ? Why was it that Government were keeping quiet and keeping so silent and we had to wait for the good offices and the enterprise of the newspaper correspondent to come to know of this ? This is a serious matter....

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : This had happened at three o'clock.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhara) : Why don't you scold them ?

MR. SPEAKER : Unfortunately, they are not school children.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह (खगरिया) : हिन्दुस्तान के इतिहास में यह एक काला सप्ताह है। कच्छ से लेकर कच्चतीवु के बारे में हमारे हितों की रक्षा नहीं की गई। अब चीन ने भारत की राजधानी में यह खुराफात की है। मैं समझता हूँ कि ये जो दूसरी घटनायें हुई हैं इनको देख कर उसका हीसला बढ़ा है। जहाँ तक गृह मंत्री जी का सम्बन्ध है वह आई० पी० सी० का क, ख, ग नहीं जानते हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि पकड़ने के लिए आर्डर दिये जा चुके हैं.....

MR. SPEAKER : There should not be any personal insinuations like that. If the hon. Member says that the hon. Minister does not know anything and he is illiterate, where will it lead us ? If personal insults are thrown out in this manner, I am sure the hon. Minister is also capable of throwing a similar insult. It is not a question of the Government but it is an insinuation against a person namely that he does not know a, b etc. Where will this kind of thing lead us ? I am not very happy about this. I am very unhappy about this.

श्री काभेश्वर सिंह : आपने कहा है कि आपने आर्डर दिया है कि उसको पकड़ो । जिस आदमी ने उसको पकड़ने का आर्डर दिया है उसे भी अरेस्ट करना चाहिये क्योंकि वह भी अपराधी है । हम लोगों को रघुनाथ का किस्सा मालूम है । उनको किस तरह से इंसल्ट किया गया यह भी हमें मालूम है । उसको ले कर हमने केवल इतना ही कहा कि

"We have lodged a strong protest note"

यह कुछ भी नहीं है ।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गृह मंत्री महोदय ने इस सम्बन्ध में अपने इससे पहले वक्तव्य क्यों नहीं दिया ? क्या इसलिए नहीं दिया कि उनके पास कोई इन्फार्मेशन नहीं थी ? आज मैं उनसे आश्वासन चाहता हूँ कि वह कोई इस सम्बन्ध में कनफ्रीट स्टैप लेंगे । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यहाँ जो चाइनीज चार्ज डी एफेयर्स है उसको निष्कामित किया जाएगा ?

श्री विद्याधर शुकल : इसके बारे में मैंने पहले ही कहा है कि हम माननीय सदस्यों के सामने पूरे तथ्य ले कर आना चाहते थे । जब तक पूरे तथ्य नहीं आ जाते तब तक . . .

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Would he like the public to give vent to their feelings by holding a demonstration there ? Is that the thing which the Government want ? If they want it, then they will have it and let them be ready for the protection of the Embassy. I am sure the people of Delhi will hold a demonstration if Government behave in this manner.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The hon. Minister is misleading the House. Government have not brought the matter before the House themselves . . .

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : This is a serious matter and we are getting no answers. Do the Government want a public demonstration there ? If they want it, I am sure they will get a public demonstration there.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I want to make one plea with you. I would require only fifteen seconds for it.

MR. SPEAKER : Certainly, he can make any plea with me.

SHRI PILOO MODY : During the last six years the Chinese have heaped one indignity after the other on us and it is only natural that we are agitated and our blood boils. Can the Prime Minister give us one little assurance that henceforth she will be taking a hard line with China ?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, may I request the Prime Minister to throw some light on this ? Let us hear her now.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : Before she replies, I would also like to know whether Government will take steps to see that no more Indians are employed in the Chinese Embassy.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : On a point of order. Just now, the hon. Minister has said that they had waited to gather full information before bringing this incident to the notice of the House. This is not a factual statement because it is not the Government that has brought the matter before the House but it is the Members who have brought this matter before the House through their calling-attention-notice.

The Minister should clarify. He has misled the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : I appreciate the feelings of hon. Members. I understand their feeling angry and upset over this. But when everybody gets up and all speak together, it does not help the situation in any way.

I have nothing to add to what the Minister has said about the facts of the case. As he has mentioned, these matters are dealt with according to international law and the law of the land. We cannot go beyond that

As for the question of breaking off diplomatic relations, this has been debated in this House before. I do not think that this incident changes anything so far as that is concerned.

SHRI RANGA : You should have brought it to the notice of the House yesterday.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : All these matters have to be seen in a much larger perspective. I know there is a group in this House who would like to . . .

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : No group, it is the whole country.

SHRI RANGA : Let us all be united now at least.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is a national question.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Even you are probably with us.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : This is why I did not get up earlier.

SHRI RANGA : Talk about the whole lot of us.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : We do take a grave view of this. Even though some mistake might have been made by the constable in entering the Embassy compound the Chinese should not have behaved in such a high-handed manner. This is accepted. Nobody need argue about it. But I think the House might leave Government to deal with the matter, as the Minister has said, according to the law. It is not good to take a snap decision in any of these matters.

As far as Shri M. L. Sondhi is concerned, I doubt if the Chinese would make such a grave mistake as to kidnap him. But should this happen, I must say it will be a great loss to the House and to India; and it will be China's gain.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The Prime Minister has not answered the specific question about withdrawal of diplomatic immunity from the Chinese officials.

MR. SPEAKER : DR. K. L. Rao.

18-38 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. LANDSLIDE AND OBSTRUCTION IN THE RIVER BURI GANDAK IN NEPAL

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : A news item appeared this morning about the reported land slide and obstruction caused in the river Buri Gandak and the threat to life

and property in North Bihar. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar as also the Minister for Irrigation and Power were contacted and according to the information available with the State Government, the situation is as follows :

The land slide has taken place *not* on the Buri Gandak river but on Buri Gandaki, a tributary of the Narayani, i.e., Gandak river at a place called Labubese 12 miles upstream of Aru Ghat Baza and about 50 miles north-west of Kathmandu in Nepal. The land slide is reported to have caused an obstruction of a height of about 50 feet across this river. It is understood that the water is now overflowing.

The Gandak Barrage now under construction at Bhaisalotan (Valmikinagar), is 110 miles from Aru Ghat Bazar, and a breach of the land slide and the resultant rush of water is likely to be largely absorbed as valley storage between Aru Ghat Bazar and Valmikinagar. While heavy floods are unlikely, the situation has to be carefully watched and precautions taken. Government of Bihar feel that there is no cause of alarm. They have alerted all the concerned officers. As the floods in Gandak may also affect areas in U.P., the U.P. Government has been advised in the matter.

Steps are being taken to safeguard the coffer dam and other appurtenant works on the Gandak Barrage under construction at Valmikinagar.

Officers of the Bihar Government consisting of the Secretary, Irrigation Department, the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and the Chief Engineer, Gandak Project left Patna this morning for an aerial inspection of the spot by an aeroplane of the State Government. They were, however, unable to fly over the area and returned back to Patna.

One of the senior officers of the Central Water and Power Commission is at present at Patna and is keeping in close touch with the State Government. The Chief Engineer of the State Government is flying tomorrow to Khatamandu and join the Nepal Engineers for further investigations. I have offered to the Minister for Irrigation and Power, Bihar to visit the areas, if necessary.