

The Indian Oil Corporation have their own network of agents and dealers in this area. In the matter of appointment of additional agents, however, the Indian Oil Corporation, have been advised to consider the claims of the ex-agents of ESSO.

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Peking Radio Advertisements in a Malayalam Weekly

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : I call the attention of the Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement thereon :

Reported statement by the Chief Minister of Kerala in the Assembly that a Malayalam Weekly printed at Calicut has been receiving advertisements from the Peking Radio.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS [SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have seen press reports of the statement reported to have been made by the Kerala Chief Minister in the State Assembly of March 13, 1969 that 'Chintha', a Malayalam weekly, published from Calicut was getting Peking Radio advertisements. Further inquiries have been made from the State Government whose report is awaited.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Symptoms are not very unclear that the Congress Government at the Centre is almost on the verge of collapse. Otherwise, how after 5½ years of the treacherous Chinese aggression of Indian soil and when, as the Defence Minister disclosed in this House, 15 divisions of Chinese army are standing on the northern border of India, an Indian weekly dare to commit such anti-national act by publishing advertisement of Peking Radio? According to the report of the HINDU, this Malayalam

weekly 'Chintha' is being published by a printing Press owned by the Marxists and the name of the printing press is 'Deshabhimani Publishing House.'

It is ironical that it should be called the Deshabhimani Publishing house; instead it should be re-named as 'Desadhrohi Publishing House. These anti national Maoist activities indulged in by the Indian Pekingites are not sudden upshots in our country. It has become almost a regular feature in our country. We find that the Indian Pekingites are raising Maoist slogans, distributing Maoist literature and they are also displaying publicly, openly and with impugny pictures of Mao...

MR. SPEAKER : May I know, therefore,.....(Interruptions.)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The question has to be concluded. The Chinese Embassy in New Delhi is also indulging in such activities. It has been found that due to the spineless stance of the Central Government they are indulging in distributing Maoist literature and sending letters and receiving telegrams from the Indian Pekingites. According to reports just now published from Kerala in the case of Tellicherry and Pulpalli episodes, the Chinese Embassy had a direct hand in instigating mass uprising in Kerala. The crux of the problem is that whenever such issues are raised in this House, Government pleads their inability to take action due to absence of legal provisions. In view of all these facts, I want to know from the hon. Home Minister, firstly, which party represents the brand of marxists which owns the so-called Deshabhimani publishing house in Kerala and whether the Government will take action against the weekly Chintha and this publishing house?

Secondly, as the Kerala Chief Minister refused to identify the channel of the Peking radio advertisement, will the Central Government institute an enquiry to find out the conspiratoreal source of such anti-national Chinese advertisement? Thirdly, do they think that providing Smt. Mandakini Narayan, an under trial Naxalite prisoner with Maoist literature and a transistor radio to hear Peking broadcasts inside

[Shri Samar Guha]

Kerala Jail amounts to encouraging Maoist politics and if so the steps taken by the Government to stop such acts ?

Lastly, will the Government take early steps to find suitable provisions to deal with such anti-national Peakingites politics of Maoist indoctrination and probing grounds for bloody insurrection according to Yanan pattern to subvert Indian freedom, Indian democracy and Indian sovereignty ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : May I remind the House that when the Unlawful Activities Ordinance was promulgated in 1966, it contained provisions to deal with situations that have arisen in the country now and at that time almost all the Members of the Opposition, including the party now represented by hon. Member Mr. Samar Guha, opposed those powers which the Government sought to take to curb those activities. Ultimately after discussion with them, the Bill was limited only to antiseccessionist activities. Now we are finding it difficult to deal with this kind of a situation. While answering supplementary questions on a starred question a few weeks ago the hon. Home Minister mentioned this fact and also said that now that these things were happening, we had to consider this matter again. We are considering the matter and it is going before the Cabinet and after it is considered by the Cabinet, the Opposition leaders will also be consulted and then we shall take it up in this House so that we have powers to deal with such persons. At present the best legal advice available indicate to us that we have no powers to deal with this matter. It is a serious matter, I agree and we must deal with it properly but unless legal powers are granted to us by the hon. House, we cannot take action in this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER : What about his three questions : to which party did it belong, who is the editor and then something else.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : As far as this weekly is concerned, it is true that this is printed in the Desabhimani Printing House. It is a Malayalam

Weekly and we do not know who actually owns this weekly, but it is printed in the Desabhimani Press. (Interruption)

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandayal) : Government does not know who publishes this weekly ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I referred to the report of the *Hindu* also.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I have asked the Minister on your behalf, Mr. Samar Guha.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I will find out who are the people behind this. But as I said it has relation to a political party. As far as the publishing House is concerned, obviously, if it is published by the publishing house which is known as the Desabhimani Publishing House, they would be owning it, but it is printed there; that we know. And that particular publishing house is owned by the communist party, Marxist; CPI(M) is the owner. But actually who technically owns that paper, whether it is a party or some individual, I shall find out and if the House wants we shall lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : I think you were also disturbed by the reply made by the hon. Minister who tried to plead the inability of the Government to act in this matter, because he said we do not co-operate in helping him to get the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill enacted here. I do not understand this kind of plea here. There are enough powers, if only the Government wants to act, to prevent this kind of activity. The IPO and the other powers are more than enough if the Government has the necessary determination and the will to act. But to try to cover this lack of will on the part of the Government, to cover up this indecision on the part of the Government, by pointing out that "you are guilty because you do not help us in getting that Act passed" was an extraordinarily specious plea that the hon. Minister thought fit to put before the House.

I would like to ask him this time a very straight and simple question. The Peking Radio is specialising in (a) denigrating, maligning and slandering this country and (b) in inciting the people perennially to overthrow this Government. If this Government is toppled by this Parliament, I do not think anybody is going to shed a tear. But the kind of advertisement and incitement from Peking Radio is to be taken along with what is now being displayed even by the Kerala Government in indictment against this young lady and the other acts in certain cases that are going on there. I do not want to go into them because they are *sub judice*, but along with this publication, the Peking Radio calls upon the people of India to engage in bloody revolution discarding the path of parliamentary democracy, and when this particular paper is publishing such things, for the Central Government here to say that we are awaiting the report of the State Government on this matter is once again nothing but a dereliction of duty.

In this connection, may I read out an extract from the speech of the Secretary of the West Bengal Communist Party (Marxist), Mr Promode Das Gupta, who has this to say? This is the report published by the *Hindustan Standard* (Calcutta Edition), dated the 18th February, 1969:

"We have adopted the path of Parliamentary democracy in order to strengthen the democratic struggle, but we firmly believe that we would not be able to reach our goal through Parliamentary democracy. Our goal is socialism and for that is required the bloody revolution. We want to reach the state of clash between the Centre and the State through the path of Parliamentary democracy to such a level that would spark off the bloody revolution."

This is the speech of Mr Promode Das Gupta. So we have to act. This trial of the people in Kerala, the publication of this advertisement and the speech of this leader of the party—I am sorry that the leaders are not here, and I do not want to take this

occasion to insinuate anything are to be taken together. What is the Government doing, when we see the fabric here, the whole fabric of democracy is being overthrown? Is it enough for the Minister to say "I do not have the powers?" I say there are enough powers and duties enjoined by the Constitution to meet this. How are they going to meet this emergency?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I think the hon. Member is correct in the sense that I understand to which sections he is referring to in the IPC. He is probably referring to sections 504, 506 and also 124A of the IPC.

He should remember that the Supreme Court had occasion to give a judgment, interpreting 'sedition' in a particular manner. After that, we had the whole matter examined in a thorough manner and the advice given to us was that after that particular judgment and with the present wording of that section, it would not be possible successfully to prosecute any of these people. I would remind the House that particular ordinance and the subsequent Bill which came before the House did contain a provision which would have enabled action to be taken against the activities like propagating the cause of countries which had threatened India's security by war or aggression, the activities of Chinese agents and of those people who promote their activities and their thoughts. It also contained a provision which would have enabled the Government to prosecute those people who attempted or pleaded to overthrow the legal Government by force or violence. All those provisions were deleted and a very invidious law was enacted by Parliament, which restricts only anti-secessionist activities. Now this matter needs reconsideration. It is under active consideration and in consultation with the leaders of the opposition parties, we shall try to take up the matter soon.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : I do not think anybody would be convinced by the arguments of the hon. Minister. It is not a question of banning, suppressing or taking action against unlawful or violent activities. The Chief

[Shri Surendranath Dwedi]

Minister of Kerala admits that Peking Radio advertisement is being published in a particular weekly, but he does not know the source through which the advertisement has reached the weekly. He may not like to disclose the facts. My question is, whether the Government of India are aware of the Peking Embassy here which is always in the habit of sending advertisements, money and letters to different parts of the country, to different persons and different parties. Sometime back when the Home Minister was replying about that telegram, it was mentioned that if it was not published in that paper, probably he would not have known about it. What is happening here? Recently I had written a letter to my personal friend in Bombay. He got the letter along with the typed sheet inside the letter saying, "Please inform your friend that his letters are being censored". Probably some good friend in the censors office wanted me to be informed that my letters are being censored. "So, they are censoring" private letters written by MPs to their friends.

Recently, the Government of Kerala have filed chargesheets against those persons involved in firing, etc. There it is said that some files have been submitted which contain correspondence which passed between the Peking Embassy here and the persons concerned. I want to know specifically whether the Government of India are really taking any steps to see and to know the activities of the men engaged in the Peking Embassy, whether their correspondence is being censored and their activities are being watched or whether they have been given a free hand to do whatever they like in this country?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The activities of such people are under strict watch. I do not think the hon. member expects me to divulge what we are trying to do to contain the activities of these people. We are taking the action which is necessary. As far as the information is concerned, I have indicated in my main statement that we have first asked the State Government to indicate to us...

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : He wants to evade the question. The Chief

Minister of Kerala has said, "Government does not know if it is being received through the Chinese Embassy".

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This is the statement which has appeared in the press. Now we have asked them for authentic information. It is not that we are going to depend entirely or solely on the information that may be or may not be provided by the State Government. We have our own sources of information.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : As I said, Sir, they have submitted a file in which there is the correspondence which passed between the Peking Embassy men here and the persons concerned. I want to know whether the Government knew of such correspondence?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I would not go into the details of it, but we do keep information about this.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have more information about this weekly and this publishing house than the mighty Government of India. I am glad that my home town has been limelighted by this Calling Attention Notice. This weekly is being run by a public limited concerned and it is a weekly with Marxist Communist leanings. The hon. Minister tried to treat it in a very casual and cavalier manner. These advertisements are not given to popularise Peking Radio. These are given as bribes in a disguised form. Anybody who takes bribes from foreign countries has no place in this country; he should be kicked out of this country. I thought the Government of India had looked at this problem from a more wider perspective. It is not only the Peking Radio but there are various embassies here which do this. The whole country, the whole capital is infested with lobbies of various foreign countries. They always hold gala parties where wine flows like Niagara, where even Members and responsible people participate. This giving of advertisements is only part of a diabolical conspiracy and that conspiracy has not been halted by this Government during the last 21 years. Everywhere you find some

foreign lobby functioning. There is the American lobby, the Russian lobby and even mushroom countries have lobbies here. If this Government has any sense of patriotism, if this Government has the backbone or the courage, may I know whether this Government has gone into the activities of these lobbies and embassies in this country who route out these advertisements? If they have done so, may I know what action has been taken during the last 21 years when they have been sleeping like Rip Van Winkle?

SHRI VIDHYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have definitely gone into it and we do keep in touch with these activities. We have also taken the necessary action wherever possible. I think this is not the time to give a catalogue of the action taken during the last 21 years. But, as I explained earlier, we have to work under the law and under the Constitution. Unless we have the power to stop them effectively we cannot do it. That is mainly the crux of the matter otherwise we are always prepared to solve the problem quickly in consultation with hon. Members of the Opposition.

12.24 hrs.

STATEMENTS RE : SECOND OIL
REFINERY IN ASSAM

MR. SPEAKAR : Is Dr. Sen going to make a statement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Sir, I can give some information.

After a week of my assumption of this new office in this new Ministry, in my enthusiasm to make India self-sufficient I had a series of discussions with the Planning Commission. I had been to Dehra Dun to discuss with our scientists in ONGC particularly regarding our sources of crude in Assam.

Sir, my interest in Assam is twofold. I was born in Assam and it was Assam which gave me shelter when I was ex-terminated from the Presidency of Bengal.

I requested Shri D. K. Barua to suggest names of experts to study the feasibility of an additional refinery in Assam. This I did on my own long long ago. I went to Jaipur to study the progress of zinc mining and the zinc smelter. I came yesterday afternoon and found on my table a letter signed by Shri Hem Barua and Shri Dhireswar Kalita informing me that they had decided to stage a hunger-strike in front of the government house that I occupy on the question of the demand made by the people of Assam on the establishment of a second refinery.

I at once wrote to him and to Shri Dhireswar Kalita :

"I have just seen your letter on return from Jaipur. You know I have taken the charge only recently."

Then I explained what I had done in this matter and at the end I said:

"May I take the liberty to request you and Shri Kalita to give me some time to study this problem and not to register your protest in the way you have mentioned in your letter."

I wrote this yesterday and they sent me a letter this morning like this :

"Your letter of March 23 had reached us last evening. We must thank you for all the earnestness with which you have engaged yourself in the task of finding out the feasibility for a Second Public Sector Oil Refinery in Assam as demanded by the people there. Since our friends are staging a hunger-strike over this question in Assam and we are responding to the call of the Oil Refinery Action Committee in Assam, it will be difficult for us to comply with your kind request "not to register our protest" however much we might be inspired by our personal regards for you. It will be really very welcome if it could be possible for you to kindly announce your decision to appoint a Committee of Experts to go into the matter and submit a feasibility report as soon as possible on the floor of Parliament today. This will, we are sure, help all and contribute to