

मुट्टी भर चावल के लिए लुटा दिया था, वही हालत उत्तर प्रदेश में हो रही है। रात दो बजे से तीन हजार, चार हजार धानमी साइन बना कर खड़े रहते हैं और छः सात दिन के बाद भी उन्हें राशन नहीं मिलता है। इतना ज्यादा इन्तजाम करने के बावजूद भी मैं ईमानदारी के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज भी खुले बाजार में चावल के दाम चौदह छटाक फी रुपया है और गेहूँ का दाम एक रुपये में एक सेर दो छटाक, एक सेर तीन छटाक है। यही कारण है कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में हाहाकार मचा हुआ है और लोग महसूस करते हैं कि सरकार फेल हो चुकी है।

बीजों के दामों के बारे में भू सवाल उत्तर प्रदेश की प्रसिद्धि में रखा गया था जिसके जवाब में कहा गया कि फसल को पाला मार गया है।

16.14 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: COMMUNIQUE OF COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to interrupt the hon. Member. He can continue afterwards. The Prime Minister is to make a statement.

This morning a reference was made to question No. 7 in the list which had not been reached. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty had said that it was a question of great importance and, therefore, the Minister should answer it. I said that it is the privilege of the Minister; if after the question hour he felt that it should be answered in the public interest, he could do so. He has laid a statement on the Table of the House. But that statement escaped the notice of the Members. Therefore, he is going to make that statement.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): Is he making this reply in answer to Question No. 7? Then, we might be permitted to ask supplementaries.

Mr. Speaker: Some questions I will allow.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The Honourable Members are aware that owing to my indisposition, I requested Shri T. T. Krishnamachari and Shrimati Indira Gandhi to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference on behalf of the Government of India. On return they reported to me fully about the proceedings of the Conference.

At the opening session of the Conference on July 8, glowing tributes were paid to the memory of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. It was stated that, in a sense, the current meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers was a memorial to Jawaharlal Nehru since it was his policy which had done so much to transform the Commonwealth relationship and make possible membership by countries with different forms of Government. All continents, creeds, races and societies were now represented in the Commonwealth which transcended the lines that normally divided mankind and this gave special significance to the deliberations of the Conference.

The results of discussions are reflected in the communique issued after the Conference. As can be seen from this communique the deliberations of the Conference covered a review of the world situation, the racial discriminatory policy of South Africa, the colonial policy of Portugal and the pending problems of British colonial territories. Other matters related to cooperation between the Commonwealth countries in programmes of economic and social development and measures to increase cooperation between the Commonwealth countries in matters of Commonwealth aid and trade.

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

Our delegation at the Conference participated in this discussion on various items and made its contributions in accordance with the policies and programmes of the Government of India.

I shall not go into further details about the proceedings of the Conference but would now like to say a few words about the reference to Indo-Pak problems in the communiqué issued at the end of the Conference. Various views have been expressed in the Indian Press and by the public on the following reference in this communiqué:

"The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the friendly public statements by the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of India and expressed their hopes that the problems between their countries will be solved in the same friendly spirit."

I can well understand the anxiety of the Honourable Members that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference should not be used as a forum for the discussion of problems involving differences between Commonwealth Members. I would, however, like to urge that so far as this particular instance is concerned, it was, I am convinced, a general expression of goodwill and that it did not constitute a departure from the convention that inter-Commonwealth differences should not be discussed at such meetings. I have noted in this connection that representatives of some other Governments who attended the conference have publicly affirmed that the convention that inter-Commonwealth differences should not be discussed has been fully maintained and that this is a matter for the countries concerned to deal with between themselves. We have ourselves stated publicly that we want to settle our differences with Pakistan peacefully but consistent with our national honour and dignity. Unfortunately, this general expression of well-intentioned goodwill at the

London meeting has been misunderstood by some in India and has been misinterpreted or misrepresented in certain quarters abroad. We firmly and categorically repudiate the suggestion contained in such misinterpretation or misrepresentation. At the same time we re-affirm our resolve to continue to function with a sense of dignity and responsibility, as a nation dedicated to peace and to the settlement of differences by peaceful methods.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** Was any earnest effort made by our representatives at the Commonwealth Conference to enlist the sympathy and support of other sister States of the Commonwealth in favour of India on the issue of India-China conflict, and if so with what result, and if not, what were the reasons therefor?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** The Finance Minister made a very categorical reference to the Chinese aggression on India in the first speech in the Commonwealth Conference. This matter was discussed by the two representatives of India who went there informally also with various heads of Governments.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** My question was....

**Mr. Speaker:** I am putting it; whether any attempts were made by our delegates to enlist sympathy and support of sister Commonwealth countries so far as our dispute with China was concerned.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** If so with what result, if not, the reasons therefor.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** As I said in the Conference or at the Conference Table it is not likely that much could be achieved; therefore, I said that informally as well as outside the Conference they had various discussions.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I may submit that it was not a dispute between members of the Commonwealth *inter se*: it is aggression by China against a member of the Commonwealth. Why could not that be discussed at the Conference? .... (Interruptions).

**श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) :** क्या यह सही है कि हिन्दुस्तान पहुंचने पर जब प्रेस रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स ने माननीय टी० टी० कृष्णामाचारी से प्रश्न किया कि क्या आपने भारत सरकार से इंस्ट्रक्शन्स ले ली थीं वं! उन्होंने कहा कि मैं खुद वहां पर भारत सरकार था।

**श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री :** मैं ने यह जवाब बिल्कुल ठीक से तो नहीं देखा, लेकिन यह सही है कि वे कामनवेल्थ कांफेरेंस में भारत का रिप्रेजेंटेशन कर रहे थे, और यह स्वाभाविक है कि जो भी मौके पर वहां रता है वं बहुत से फैसले स्वयं करता है।

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Inference is drawn by the Press and public opinion in this country and is gaining support from subsequent statement made by President Ayub and Mr. Bhutto particularly in view of the fact that the reference in the Communique was in spite of India and against her wishes and because the communique did not contain any reference to Chinese aggression on India. Why was it so? Was an effort made to have subsequent clarification on the inclusion of the India-Pakistan difference to the omission of reference to the Chinese aggression on India in the communique?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** In so far as reference to India and Pakistan is concerned, our representative there, the Finance Minister, did make some observations and he said that the old convention should be maintained, that is, differences between two members of the Commonwealth should not be discussed in the Conference and

therefore it was made clear in the communique that the old convention has been maintained. Secondly, reference made in the communique is not with regard to the discussions held in the conference; it is based on the statements made outside the Conference both by the President of Pakistan as well as the Prime Minister of India.... (Interruptions).

**Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi):** May I know if it is a fact that the official press attache at London was absent when the final communique was issued and taking advantage of the absence of our official press attache a wrong twist was given to the entire statement by the Pakistan press people and all the damage had been done?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** There is some truth in what the hon. Member has said. It has been brought to my notice that some press officer or press relations officer did twist the whole thing and he did it perhaps when there was some discussion going on, on this draft communique. During that period that particular person went outside and conveyed a distorted version to the press people who were present there.

**श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि राष्ट्र-सम्मेलन में जब धनिम ध्यान नैयार हो रहा था तब भारतीय प्रतिनिधियों ने पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान के झगड़े को शामिल करने का विरोध किया था।

**श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री :** जी हां, यह कहा था उन्होंने कि इस विषय पर न कोई राय सम्मेलन में दी जा सकती है और न इस विषय में सम्मेलन कोई फैसला कर सकता है।

**Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East):** In the past also, the Government of India has expressed more than once that India wants to have a peaceful settlement of her dispute with Pakistan;

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

In the past also, the representative of the Government of India participated in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, but never was such a reference made in the final communique. May I know why it happened this time, that this specific mention has been made in this conference?

**Mr. Speaker:** This has been answered.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** It has not been particularly answered.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I have nothing new to say. Of course, things change; conditions change and the character of the Commonwealth Conferences has also considerably changed during this period, because many countries which have recently attained independence have become members of that Conference.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** That increases the number; not the character.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Character also changes because of the kind of views held by certain sections of the new States which have joined the Commonwealth Conference. I do not want to go into details. The new members were especially more active and they wanted that the Commonwealth Conference should intervene in many matters to which our representative took a strong objection, and therefore only a reference was made, as I said earlier; to the statement made outside and not in the Commonwealth Conference.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central):** In view of the obvious fact that the statement as it was ultimately drafted did amount to a reflection of the position as between India and Pakistan, however benevolently it might have been phrased, may I know why it is that the Finance Minister, after having initially objected to the inclusion of anything like that kind of

statement, allowed himself to be overborne by the majority at a conference where the majority vote decisions are not the rule but unanimity was the principle always followed?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** The Finance Minister found that it was merely an expression of goodwill. There was no pressure on the Indian representatives to accept any kind of mediation or use of the good offices of any Commonwealth member. Therefore, when the representatives found that there was a general wish that this kind of reference should not be objected to, our representatives agreed to it, but I have no doubt in my mind—and I would like to make it quite clear—that we can never accept the position that the Commonwealth Conference can be a forum for discussion of differences between two Commonwealth members.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore):** Is there any precedent or practice when what is discussed in the Conference as it was discussed—China and other things—is not mentioned and such things which are not discussed in the Conference are imported, and if they give expression to it, a good hope of good relations between the two countries, what can stop them by the same reasoning to express a disappointment at the failure of the talks?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** If they do that, we are also there to reply to it.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** The first part of the question has not been answered. The question is whether it is the practice accepted by our Government that what is discussed in the Commonwealth Conference is not mentioned in the communique and what is not discussed or something said outside is imported in the proceedings and the communique, and whether this position is acceptable to the Government, and if it is accepted,

then, if they import something from outside and they express the hope of a settlement, what is there to stop them from expressing disappointment at the failure?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I think in so far as what has been accepted, is accepted, and forms part of the communique. What has not been accepted or what will happen in future, it is a hypothetical question.

**Shri Basappa (Tiptur):** Will the Government consider the advisability of having a larger or a bigger delegation consisting of more members so that they might have more contact. (Interruption).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Basappa:**.. on an occasion like this when we have to contact more members from the South African countries? On such occasions, is it advisable to have a bigger delegation to explain the matters? (Interruptions).

**Some hon. Members:** No, no.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** It is being said in the Press and elsewhere also that the reference to China as an aggressor against India and South-east Asia was omitted because some of the African States were opposed to it. It is also being said that the reference to Kashmir dispute was inserted because Pakistan insisted on it. If this is so, what is the positive advantage gained by India so far as attending the Commonwealth conference is concerned?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** So far as the reference to India and Pakistan is concerned, as I said, there was no substantive discussion on that at all in the Commonwealth conference. Regarding the reference made to certain countries by the hon. Member—he has not named them—they also did not raise that issue in so far as this particular question was concerned. Our Minister in his first speech did make a reference about the

Chinese aggression. He made a reference in his speech; this reference was not made at the time of the consideration of the draft communique. The hon. Member has slightly misunderstood the position. I said that the Minister, while making his first speech, made a reference, but there was no discussion at the time of the consideration of the draft communique on all matters which were discussed in the Commonwealth conference.

**Some hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Today I cannot allow more questions. Because so many Members are anxious, if some other opportunity is sought for, I will consider it.

16.33 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION—  
 contd.

**श्री स० मो० बनर्जी :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि जिस वक्त उत्तर प्रदेश की प्रसेम्बली में यह सवाल थाया कि बाखिर इतना जबरदस्त भ्रष्ट संकट क्यों पैदा हुआ, तो सरकार ने यह जवाब दिया कि फसल पर पाला पड़ गया था। लेकिन जब चीजों के भाव का सवाल हमारे सामने आता है तो हम देखते हैं कि अंग्रेज खाद्य पदार्थों के दाम नहीं बढ़े हैं, बल्कि देश में हर चीज के दाम बढ़ गए हैं। पाले के कारण भनाज का दाम ज्यादा हो सकता था, लेकिन माचिस पर तो पाला नहीं पड़ा, पर उसका दाम भी मात नए पैसे या छः नये पैसे से बढ़ कर छः दस या दस नए पैसे हो गया। क्या दामदा पर भी पाला पड़ गया कि उसका दाम बढ़ गया? मुझे लगता है कि पाला फसल पर नहीं, सरकार का ध्यान पर पाला पड़ गया है और यही कारण है कि इनकी आँखों के आगे सप्ता में डूबी हुई एक तस्वीर के सिवा कुछ नहीं है।

पाटिल साहब ने अपने भाषण में गुजरात राज्य की वर्षा की धीर उतका मजाक उड़ाते