

I think that there should be some coordination between the railway authorities and the local municipal authorities to have a comprehensive plan for the proper drainage and public road system in Kharagpur area, because the first part of the drain and also of the public roads will be completed by the railway authorities and the later part will be completed by the municipal authorities. My question is whether the Central Government will consult the local municipal authorities to have a comprehensive drainage system and public road system in the Kharagpur railway area ?

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** Kharagpur is a railway colony. The whole property in Kharagpur railway colony more or less belongs to railway. I had personally visited the area myself. We had discussions both with the railway officials and municipality officials together. We have suggested that there should be a comprehensive scheme to meet the requirements of the area and responsibility should be fixed as to what the railways can look after and what the municipal authorities can take over, maintain and look after. I think they are at it.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:** A large number of railwaymen have to use Telugu language. I want to know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to establish Telegu as the medium ?

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** There is already a school existing with Telugu language and it is doing well.

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+  
\*256. **SHRI CHITTA BASU :**

**SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent despatch appearing in the Australian newspapers, the Australian High Commissioner in India made certain remarks about the functioning of the Government stating that a military type of Government is talked about in certain quarters; and

(b) if so, details thereof and reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Australian daily "The Age" published an article by one free lance journalist—Laurie Oakes—on November 6, 1980, citing excerpts from the despatch (which was apparently leaked to Mr.

Oakes) sent by the Australian High Commissioner in New Delhi—Mr. Gordon Noel Upton—to his Foreign Office on October 3, 1980, wherein Mr. Upton is alleged to have made critical comments on the performance of the Prime Minister since she assumed office and alluded to the possibility of a military take-over. It is usual for diplomats to send their assessments to their Governments on the situation prevailing in the country to which they are accredited and these assessments are treated as confidential. The Indian High Commissioner in Canberra has been in touch with the Australian Foreign Office officials. He had also written a letter to the Editor of "The Age" to show that the assessment attributed to Mr. Upton was far from correct.

On the 17th November, 1980, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi were informed by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra that the Australian Government attached the greatest importance to the relations between India and Australia, and that they were concerned over recent developments. They have since issued an official press release expressing their deep regrets for the embarrassment this article had caused in particular to the Prime Minister of India. The Press Release said that the High Commissioner had made clear his constructive concern about the problems facing India, as he saw them and his desire to see relations between Australia and India continue to develop in a positive way. They said it was the journalist who while commenting on the stolen report had alleged that the Australian High Commissioner held Mrs. Gandhi "in low esteem" or "had a lack of respect for her". In view of the above circumstances, Government do not feel any further action is called for.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** It is clear from the reply of the Minister that such assessments have been made by the Australian diplomat. The reply says:

"The Indian High Commissioner in Canberra has been in touch with the Australian Foreign Office officials. He had also written a letter to the Editor of 'The Age' to show that the assessment attributed to Mr. Upton was far from correct."

May I know from the hon. Minister what other steps have been taken by our External Affairs Ministry to inform the Australian public about the real political situation of our country? Does it not signify that our External Affairs Ministry's Publicity Department is not working satisfactorily abroad?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** It has nothing to do with the question. The question is in regard to an alleged report sent by the High Commissioner. Our High Commissioner asked the Australian Foreign Office and they said: "Yes, it is true." Only for this limited purpose, he got in touch with their Foreign office. So far as the newspaper in which this was published is concerned, he sent a rejoinder saying that the content of the despatch attributed to the Australian High Commissioner, was wrong. Our High Commissioner gave his version.

In regard to the general publicity which our Missions do abroad on matters connected with the Indian Government and its policies and programmes, I have a lot of material with me. Many of our Missions bring out their own publications. I can tell the hon. Members all the details. In fact, in the Consultative Committee, I have given all these details. If the Members want, I can place all those things, the names of the journals, etc. on the Table of the House.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** Please record it that we want it.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Is it a fact that the way the Government of India is functioning today, the growing infight within the ruling party, the non-fulfilment of the promises made and the consolidation of power.....(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** No, you cannot ask a question which does not pertain to this question.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Let me frame the question. You cannot anticipate the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am not anticipating. I am referring to what you are saying.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** You please listen to the actual formulation of the question and then you decide whether it is pertinent or germane to the question or not. My grouse against you is that before I could complete the formulation of my question, you start objecting.....(*Interruptions*) May I know whether it is a fact that the way the Government is functioning today, with the growing infighting within the ruling party....

**MR. SPEAKER:** How is it concerned with the question ?

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Because of the non-fulfilment of promises and the consolidation of power by repressive measures and the general deterioration of the law and order situation, which may create...(*Interruptions*) It may create an impression in the minds of the foreign dignitaries.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is a hypothetical question.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** If that is so, what corrective measures the Government is taking ?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Not allowed. This question does not arise out of the main question.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Mr. Upton made an assessment and it was Mr. Upton's right to communicate it to his Government. My apprehension is that the other diplomats in India can have the same impression, unless the government is functioning effectively; is it not a fact.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Not allowed.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** How do you say this question does not arise out of the main question ? If you say that, then I am satisfied. I want your ruling as to how you have come to this conclusion that this question does not arise out of the main question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Not allowed.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Is that the only remark that you have to make ?

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** The entire controversy is about what the Minister has described as an allusion to military take over in this country. I do not know what the exact words are, because he said "alluding". I want the Minister to inform me exactly what the High Commissioner said.

My view is that the whole matter could have been taken up with quiet diplomacy. It is the spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs who brought it to the notice of the Indian press that such a report has been published in an obscure newspaper and then it was published in our country, and that has led to this controversy. Would it not have been more opportune, better, to have taken it up quietly with the Australian Government, if you consider Indo-Australian relations are of paramount importance, and get its regret, rather than this procedure of informing the Indian press through the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** About the first part of the question. Mr. Upton said :

"In the absence of an effective alternative to Mrs. Indira Gandhi?"

It so happens that he has not spared anyone.

**DR. SUERAMANTIAM SWAMY:** It is a stupid comment.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** It says:

"In the absence of an effective alternative to Mrs. Gandhi, the prospect of military take over was being openly aired in some quarters, although he (Mr. Upton himself) felt that the present generation of army leadership is strongly opposed to it. It was in this context that Mr. Upton ventured the opinion that it (namely, military take over) cannot be ruled out in the long run."

This is how he put it. I do not have to make any comment on that.

Coming to the second part, it so happens that this was taken up as quietly as the hon. Member suggests; nothing less quiet than what he has suggested. Our High Commissioner quietly went to the Foreign Office, he quietly asked them whether this is correct, ... because it was obviously on the basis of a leak—a leak could be right, a leak could be wrong. Therefore, it was not proper for him or it would not have been proper for him, to do anything before he checked the veracity of what appeared in the paper. He was told that it was correct. Then, he equally quietly wrote a letter to the paper wherein he refuted whatever was contained in the earlier report. Here it is quite possible that our spokesman was asked by some pressman and therefore, he could not have suppressed it. There is no question of his going out of the way. Even otherwise, it is necessary to clarify matters when such a thing has appeared and has become the subject matter of controversy—I may also add in this connection that all this came out as result of a local controversy in Australia. We need not go into that, but I can assure the House that the reports in regard to the controversy have also appeared in the newspapers. Therefore, it was not so much a direct leakage or a direct report based on the report of their High Commissioner, but it also had some other overtones of a controversy within that country. Therefore, in this context it was not wrong on the part of our spokesman to have referred to it because there was nothing to suppress in it.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that following the publication of this so-called leakage, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, an hon. Member of this House, came out in open support of the assessment of the report sent by the Australian High Commissioner here in

India. Is it a fact that some foreign nationals in India are in collusion with some reactionary and fascist elements in the country and they are engaged in destabilisation....

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** No. It is all right.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY:** Sir, the Minister has to reply to this.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** In regard to Mr. Vajpayee's statement, I have nothing to say. He has agreed with what all Mr. Upton has said. So, any one could draw his own conclusions. I have nothing to add.

**PROF. K. K. TEWARY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Mr. Vajpayee issued a statement in support of that assessment.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Tewary, he has already replied.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** I said that Mr. Vajpayee has agreed with the contents of the report, naturally with all the contents of the report. It is for anyone to draw the conclusions.

**SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:** Anyhow, it is a matter of satisfaction that the Australian Government has expressed its regret, and I think the Minister was also right to say that any accredited diplomat is within his right to send his assessment. But the serious matter is, how this report has got leaked out there, how the report of the diplomat leaked out. How was it possible? Did the Government take up this matter with the Australian Government to find out whether they will make any inquiry as to whether there was any deliberate attempt on the part of anybody in the Foreign Ministry of Australia to leak out this report purposefully to damage the image of India?

Another thing is, I am sorry that the Minister has said, after reading out that portion from assessment: 'I have no comment to make'. I want to say that India having a very long tradition of national movement where people have been fully involved at all stages, I can say that Indian democracy in spite of all difficulties, is taking strong roots and therefore, there is no danger or any kind of military rule. The Minister should not say that he has no observation to make on this.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** I am sorry this has been misinterpreted. I was not on the point of answering Mr. Upton. I only said within quotes what he has written because the hon. Member

[Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao]

wanted to know what was written on that particular matter. I have just said what was written within quotes. If it is a question of answering him, I can certainly answer point by point. I need not to do it because my High Commissioner has already done it.

**SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV :** The High Commissioner has done it, but you are replying to questions in the highest forum of the nation. You should also say if there is any foundation.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** If it is a question of commenting on what Mr. Upton said, I refute everything that he has said because everything is based on mis-information, miscalculation and wrong assessment. That is, of course, there, but the point is that the question is about something else. So, I confine myself to answering the point that was asked and nothing more.

So far as the other point raised by the hon. Member is concerned, on this very question our High Commissioner, quietly again, made enquiries and he was told categorically that it was not a deliberate leak, and that their Foreign Office was not responsible for this.

**श्रीमती प्रमिला बंडवले :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल है कि जो रिपोर्ट ऑस्ट्रेलियन एम्बेसेडर ने भेजी है, जिस आधार पर उन्होंने असेसमेंट किया है उसके बारे में क्या सरकार के प्रतिनिधि ने उनसे बातचीत की है? क्या यह बात सच है कि डिफेंस मिनिस्टर हमारे देश में एक्वाइंट न होने के कारण शायद...

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मि० घोष ।

**श्रीमती प्रमिला बंडवले :** मेरी पहली बात का जवाब भी नहीं दिया ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** नहीं, कुछ भी नहीं है ।

मि० घोष ।

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH :** You said that the Australian Government have stated that it was not a deliberate leak, that on enquiry you were told so. Are you satisfied with this reply? How can it be? Has the Australian Government conducted any enquiry into this?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has already replied.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH :** Do you think that in this vast multi-national country, there can be a military takeover?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has already replied to that question.

**श्री जमीलुर्हमान :** स्पीकर साहब, आपने मुझे सप्लीमेंटरी पूछने का मौका दिया इसके लिए मैं आपका शुक्रगुजार हूँ ।

अखबारों में यह बात बार बार आ चुकी है कि हमारे देश के राज् दूसरे मुल्कों में जाते हैं ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह राज् तो नहीं है ।

**श्री जमीलुर्हमान :** यह मामला बहुत अहम है । यह हमारे मुल्क की सिक्योरिटी का मसला है । तो मैं आपकी मार्फत यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि हमारे मुल्क के बारे में यह बात जानते हुए कि the majority of the Indian people have voted for Mrs. Gandhi and have got faith in her.

(व्यवधान)

यह मामला बहुत अहम है । बहुत से बाहरी एजेंट हमारे मुल्क में डी-स्टैबिलाईजेशन लाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं । इसलिए मैं बहुत साफ तौर पर जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे लोग जो हमारे मुल्क के मामले में मदाखलत करते हैं, इसको मैं अपने मुल्क में अन्दरूनी मदाखलत समझता हूँ, क्या ऐसे लोगों को नान-प्रेटा डिक्लेयर करके वापिस भेजा जायेगा ।  
(व्यवधान)

[ شری جمیل الرحمن : اسوئیک ]

صاحب آپ مجھے سپلمینٹری پوچھنے کا موقع دیا اسکے لئے میں آپ کا شکر گزار ہوں -

اخباروں میں یہ بات بار بار آ  
چکی ہے کہ ہمارے دیس کے راز  
دوسرے ملکوں میں جاتے ہیں -

ادھیکھن مہودے : یہ راز تو  
نہیں ہے -

شری جمیل الرحمان : یہ معاملہ

بہت اہم ہے - یہ ہمارے ملک کی  
سیکوریٹی کا معاملہ ہے - تو میں آپ  
کی معرفت یہ عرض کر رہا تھا کہ  
ہمارے ملک کے بارے میں یہ بات  
چانتے ہوئے کہ

the majority of the Indian people have  
voted for Mrs. Gandhi and have got faith  
in her.

(انگریزوں)

یہ معاملہ بہت اہم ہے - بہت سے  
باہری ایجنٹ ہمارے ملک میں آتی  
سٹیبلائزیشن لانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں -  
اس لئے میں بہت صاف طور پر  
جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ایسے لوگ جو  
ہمارے ملک کے معاملے میں مداخلت  
کرتے ہیں - اسکو میں اپنے ملک  
میں اندرونی مداخلت سمجھتا ہوں -  
کہا ایسے لوگوں کو نان گورننگ ڈکلیئر  
کے واپس بھیجا جائے گا - (انگریزوں)

SPEAKER : Next question.

ریلवे अधिनियम का संशोधन

\* 258. श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा : क्या  
रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे अधिनियम, 1980  
में आमूल-चूल संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता  
है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उसका कोई  
पुनरीक्षण किया गया है ; और

(ग) सरकार का सदन में नया  
कानून कब पेश करने का विचार है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKAR-  
JUN): (a) and (b) The Indian Railways  
Act is being revised with a view to bringing  
it in line with the present day circum-  
stances.

(c) The Draft Railways Bill for amend-  
ing the existing Indian Railways Act  
will be introduced in Parliament as soon  
as the review is completed.

श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा : अध्यक्ष  
महोदय, मैं आपको शिष्टाचार के लिए  
धन्यवाद देता हूँ। इन्होंने अपने जवाब  
में कहा है कि The Indian Railways  
Act is being revised with a view  
to bringing it in line with the present day  
circumstances.

आज 90 साल हो गए हैं उस एक्ट  
को...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : धन्यवाद आप उनका  
कर रहे हैं या मेरा कर रहे हैं।

श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा : मैं यह पूछना  
चाहता हूँ कि इन्डियन रेलवेज एक्ट को  
रिवाइज करने का इरादा कब शुरू हुआ ?  
रेलवे ने उसका ड्राफ्ट बिल तो बना  
दिया, उसे लॉ मिनिस्ट्री में कब भेजा  
गया और आप उसे सदन में कब रखने