

प्रोफेशनल मिसकांडक्ट के बावजूद नाजायज तरीके से बहुत सारे एडवर्टीजमेंट्स प्राप्त किए और बहुत से अखबार ऐसे थे जिनको सरकार ने पेनलाइज किया था क्योंकि उन्होंने सरकार का समर्थन नहीं किया था। मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा कि हम सारे पेपर्स को एट पार रख रहे हैं, उनमें कोई पोलिटिकल कंसीड्रेशन नहीं किया जाएगा तो जिन अखबारों ने इमर्जेंसी में लूट के आधार पर नाजायज तरीके से एडवर्टीजमेंट प्राप्त किए और अपनी लूट बनाए रखी और दूसरे वे अखबार जिनको सफर करना पड़ा—इस भेदभाव को मंत्री जी किस प्रकार से ठीक करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण अडवानी : जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा लूट तो की है, उसका एक तरीका यह था कि अचानक आर्बिट्रेरी तरीके से अनेक पत्र-मल्लिकाओं के जो रेट्स थे उनको कई गुना बढ़ा दिया गया था लेकिन उनको कम कर देने से और राशनलाइज कर देने से स्वाभाविक रूप से जितना लाभ उनको पहले पहुंचता था वह लाभ अब नहीं पहुंचेगा। कम से कम आज की स्थिति में हम एक राशनलाइज पालिसी एडाप्ट कर रहे हैं।

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I understand that the reason why the advertisement rates are being revised is to help the small and medium newspapers and ultimately to bring about independence of the press. To my mind, one of the greatest threat to the independence of the press in this country is from the fact that the press is being controlled all over the country by the monopoly houses. I would like to know why no steps have been taken so far by the Janata Government after they have come to power to delink the press from the monopoly houses to diffuse the ownership of the press.

MR. SPEAKER : It does not arise from the main question and need not be answered. I have, however, no objection if the Minister wants to answer.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It does not arise from the question.

डा० बलदेव प्रकाश : मन्त्री महीदय ने अभी हाउस को सूचना दी है कि 1 फरवरी, 1977 से जो रेट्स बढ़ा दिए गए थे, जो लूट मच गई थी वह समाप्त कर दी गई है लेकिन उस तारीख से पहले भी पिछली सरकार ने बहुत से न्यूजपेपर्स को फेवर करके बहुत से एडवर्टीजमेन्ट्स दिए थे, अगर आगे के लिए वही आधार बना रहा तो वह न्यूजपेपर्स फायदे में रहेंगे। तो क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी नीति अपनाएगी कि जो पिछला आधार एडवर्टीजमेन्ट देने का था उस पर दोबारा गौर करके नए तरीके से एडवर्टीजमेन्ट दिए जायें ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण अडवानी : पुराने रेट स्ट्रक्चर को रेशनलाइज कर दिया गया है। अब डिफरेंट प्रिंसिपल्स के आधार पर रेट स्ट्रक्चर बनाया गया है। अगर कहीं पर किसी को बहुत ज्यादा लाभ पहुंचा है तो उसको भी एग्जामिन कर रहे हैं। मैं आपको यह भी बता सकता हूँ कि इस सारे नए रेट स्ट्रक्चर के कारण कम से कम 81 प्रतिशत स्माल और मीडियम न्यूजपेपर्स को लाभ पहुंचेगा।

Silt Deposit in River Hooghly

45 ***SHRI CHITTA BASU :**
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING & TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'silt deposit' in the river Hooghly is on the increase which has resulted in the deterioration of the working of the Calcutta Port; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the improvement of the working of the Calcutta Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) Before commissioning of Frakka Barrage Project, river Hooghly had ex-

perienced progressive siltation of the bed. However, since the commissioning of the Feeder Canal of the Barrage Complex in April, 1975 thereby restoring the perennial flow through the river system along with adoption of various corrective measures, this phenomenon of siltation in the upper Reaches of the river, i.e. upto Hooghly Point (34 nautical miles down stream of Calcutta) has been more or less arrested. The changes as a result of reduction in the flow through Bhagirathi Canal have, however, to be watched. However, lately there has been heavy siltation at Balari Bar located 48 nautical miles below Calcutta and Jellingham shoal, located 62 nautical miles below Calcutta.

The adverse trends exhibited by the river at the Balari Bar and Jellingham shoal areas are results mainly of the natural changes occurring in the Delta environment in which they are situated.

(b) Intensive dredging is being continued both at Balari Bar and Jellingham shoal together with corrective works to arrest the adverse trends in the river behavior in the vicinity of these bars. Schemes are also under-way for disposal of dredged spoils ashore instead of dumping them in the river.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am sorry to say that the long statement he now makes has not been provided to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it so? Have you not supplied the written reply?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Anyway let me be allowed to put my question.

SHRI CHAND RAM: We have supplied the answer to the Lok Sabha office.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: In view of the long reply, my supplementary will also be long.

You know the changes in the main course of the river Ganga have resulted in the siltation of the river Hooghly which has become a constant threat to the very survival of the port of Calcutta which would be evident from the facts I have collected from government publications also, namely;

(1) That until 1936 the occurrence of bores in the Hooghly was restricted to about 40 days a year. At present they occur on more than 160 days.

(2) In 1938 ships of a draught of 26 ft. could use the port for nearly 300 days a year but in 1961 it could not be opened to such vessels even for a single day.

(3) The port handled only 7.5 million tons of traffic in 1974-75 as against 11 million tonnes in 1964-65.

(4) The volume of traffic in the year 1974-75 was much lower than the total capacity of 13 million tonnes

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly formulate your question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Having regard to these various facts, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that supply of more head water from the Farakka point is the only solution for the clearance of silt in Hooghly and which can alone ensure the survival of the Calcutta Port?

In this connection, may I also know whether the recent agreement made between the governments of India and Bangladesh has drastically reduced the availability of the head water flow from the Farakka barrage?

Is not this agreement nothing but a death warrant for the port of Calcutta? Is it not a policy of appeasement of the dictatorial regime of Bangladesh? Is it not a policy of appeasement of President Carter who wants to rule the eastern region of our country?

May I know all these points from the hon. Minister and particularly, the Prime Minister who is in charge of Shipping and Transport?

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed a separate debate on Farakka agreement.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That does not prevent me from putting my question.

MR. SPEAKER: That does not. But I am only informing you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have put my question and the Minister has given a long answer and I am entitled to put my supplementary and the Minister is bound to reply.

SHRI CHAND RAM: I think it is not a supplementary, it is a suggestion or opinion of the Member.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: No, Sir.

You are the guardian of the House which is the highest representative body of the people of the country. It is in the national interest and I am using my right to ask the supplementary and you have a right to force the Minister to answer my question.

SHRI CHAND RAM: So far as you are concerned, I quite concede the point that it is only you who can decide about the question. But, so far as the question is concerned, I can only say that we are taking steps and all corrective measures to arrest the growth of silt.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Is it or is it not a fact that supply of head water flow from Farakka is the only solution for the survival of Calcutta and clearance of siltage?

MR. SPEAKER: May I know your question?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Is it not a fact that more head water supply from Farakka is the only solution for silt clearance of Calcutta Port? If so, is it also a fact that by the agreement between Bangla Desh and India, the supply of head water flow has diminished drastically? If so, what is the reason for that? Is it not the signing of death warrant for Calcutta? Is it not the policy to appease Bangla Desh and is it not the policy to appease Jimmy Carter?

MR. SPEAKER: No. That does not arise.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): That is going to be discussed in the House. As was said the other day in the House, they are demanding discussion. In the discussion it can be thrashed out.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the effect of the Farakka is concerned, there is going to be a separate discussion. So far as other matters are concerned—whether silt is going to be cleared, whether water has been reduced—like has to answer. Now he will answer. But what effect Farakka has, will be discussed separately. The Hon. Minister may answer about reduction in water and increase in siltage.

SHRI CHAND RAM: If you examine the main question, he has asked whether the silt deposit in the River Hooghly has increased. I have said that this increase was observed as far back as '30s and the Farakka Barrage was constructed only to arrest the siltage. I think I have already indicated in the answer that Farakka Barrage has been successful in arresting the siltage.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: My previous question has not been replied. Another supplementary will arise out of his reply. You should come to my help to-day.

MR. SPEAKER: I can help only upto a point.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am sorry to mention that you have not protected my interests.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not been able to give full details because he is not dealing with that. Anyway, we are going to have full debate and you will have an opportunity.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I should be supplied with the relevant information. The question was very simple—whether the agreement has reduced the availability of water?

MR. SPEAKER: He is not able to say that because he is not dealing with that. It is not within his Ministry. You have to address it to the appropriate Ministry.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has got in his view any short term or long term programme in the matter of dredging or in the matter of clearance of silt in the Calcutta Port so that it may ensure its survival. Calcutta Port is dying. If Calcutta dies, India does not live also.

SHRI CHAND RAM: We have already three dredgers in the port itself and dredging is done on a large scale. If it is desirable, we shall increase dredging itself. That is one of the methods. To save Calcutta Port, we have also constructed the barrage.

Now, about the Barrage, as the hon. Prime Minister has indicated, there will be a full-scale discussion in the matter.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Is the Minister aware that the oil tanker Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ran aground recently at the oil jetty at Haldia? Will the Minister please state if the reason for the oil tanker running aground was due to less water coming to the Ganga after the recent agreement on Farakka waters, which promised less than 40,000 cusecs of water to the Hooghly river?

MR. SPEAKER: The only question you can answer is, whether it was due to silting.

SHRI CHAND RAM: That was not the reason, Sir.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: It is a very important question. The oil tanker could have broken up into parts. It belongs to the Shipping Corporation of India, a public sector undertaking. I want to know the precise reasons.

SHRI CHAND RAM: He has asked this question about the Calcutta Port only not about Haldia.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Haldia is a satellite port of Calcutta. This is also under the Calcutta Port Trust. The Minister is not aware of this. You cannot say that Haldia is a separate port. It is a part of the Calcutta port.

SHRI CHAND RAM: An enquiry is being conducted why that ship ran aground. I cannot say at this moment what the reason is.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: May I know from the hon. Minister whether export of coal is linked up with the development of Calcutta and Haldia ports? Is it not correct that the port can be improved not only by dredging, but by regular flushing of fresh waters from the Ganga? What steps have been taken by the Government to remove the silting problem there?

SHRI CHAND RAM: I have already stated about the steps which have been taken in this regard.

श्री समर गुहः मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले पाँच साल में सिल्टिंग के कारण इस पोर्ट में, मूवमेंट में कितनी रुकावट पड़ी है और उसके कारण कलकत्ता पोर्ट से जो एक्सपोर्ट-इम्पोर्ट होता है उसको कितनी क्षति पहुंची है ?

श्री चांद राम : इसके लिए मुझे नोटिस चाहिए ।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that it did require notice.

Assets of Staff attached to former Ministers

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*46. **SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:**
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that some of the Special Assistants/Private Secretaries attached to the various Ministers/Minister of States in the previous Congress Government, who are still in Government Service, are in possession of assets both movable and immovable disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, whether he had made any inquiry through CBI against these officers and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action which he propose to take in the matter if not already initiated; and

(d) when he will lay on the Table of the House, a statement showing the particulars of such officers, the assets possessed by them and the action taken against them.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Wherever specific information was available about the alleged possession of disproportionate assets in respect of any such public servant, necessary inquiries have been instituted. On conclusion of the investigations in the cases, appropriate action will be taken according to relevant laws.

(d) This information will be available only after the conclusion of the investigations.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Home Minister told us that necessary enquiries have been instituted. We would like to know in how many cases have these enquiries been instituted and which are the ministries involved?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: There are only three cases which came to our notice or brought to our notice and enquiries have been instituted into these three cases. I know the names of officers and, if the hon. House want to know them, I can tell them.

MR. SPEAKER: He does not want the names of the officers but he wants to know which are the Ministries involved.

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: Commerce Ministry, Prime Minister's office and the Defence Ministry.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: We would also like to know the nature of the enquiry that has been conducted—whether it is a departmental enquiry or enquiry by the CBI or any other agency.

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: These enquiries are being conducted by the C.B.I. and as for the third enquiry relating to the staff of the Defence Minister, that has been conducted by the Haryana Police.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tyagi.

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI rose

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Sir, my name is there.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Shri Malik.