

Re. Demand for Action [15 JULY
against the Enactment of the
Controversial Marathi

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 15th July, 1998/
24 Asadha, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr.
Chairman in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 401. (*Interruptions*)

RE. DEMAND FOR ACTION AGAINST THE ENACTMENT OF THE CONTROLVERSIAL MARATHI PAY, “MEE NATHURAM GODSEY BOLTAY”.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, before starting the Question Hour, I would like to bring to your notice a very painful matter which is taking place in the city of Bombay, Maharashtra. The news item has appeared in The Indian Express of today, that is, 15th July, 1998 and the caption is "Godse's tirade against Gandhi captivates Marathi audience." This is a play which has been approved by the Maharashtra Stage Performances Scrutiny Board. The Scrutiny Board is functioning under the Cultural Affairs Ministry. (*Interruptions*) Sir, this is not only glorifying Godse but also denigrating completely Mahatma Gandhi, his work and culture. I would like to quote from the news item. It says: "Marathi theatre buffs in Mumbai are flocking to a new two-act play, Mee Nathuram Godse Boltay, which charts the ideological journey of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin, Nathuram Vinayak Godse, and is mostly a tirade against the national policies and programmes of the Father of the Nation" I would like to point out that the concerned Minister of State Government has said that he cannot take any action because nobody complained to him. (*Interruptions*) Sir, this is a very serious matter and the Minister must take action. The play has been approved by the Cultural Department. The author of the play has further said, "Gandhijs was very stubborn and even adamant and his attitude resulted in much harm to the nation. And Godse thought it his duty to point out that

,1998]

Pay, "Mee Nathuram 2
Godsey Boltay"

national loss....(*Interruptions*) Sir, I request you to issue a direction to the Minister to take necessary action in the matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATUR-VEDI: Sir, what is this? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Minister concerned has said that he can't take action because nobody has complained to him. This is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*) Sir, appropriate action must be taken against those people who have enacted the play because this play is denigrating the values cherished by Mahatma Gandhi and the nation. The whole humanity respects him. The drama which has been enacted with the connivance of the State Government has denigrated, insulted and humiliated Gandhiji. (*Interruptions*) I request you to direct the Government to take necessary action in the matter because this is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give it in writing.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, this has appeared in the Press. It has appeared in almost all the leading Hindi newspapers.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOT-RA: You first seek permission of the Chair to raise it. We have no objection. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, this is not an ordinary matter.

Mr. Malhotra, I agree with you that this is not an ordinary matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you have made your point. Let us start the Question Hour. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, kindly give a direction to the Government to do the needful in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not heard anything.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I can repeat it. Sir. (*Interruptions*) If a direction goes

from the Chair, it will be proper.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unless I have seen the news item, I cannot give a direction immediately. You kindly send the news item to me.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I take the responsibility for what I have said.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You send it to me. I will look into it.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I request you to give a direction to the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can I direct the Government unless I have seen the news item? You send the whole thing in writing to me. I will look into it. I cannot direct the Government without reading the text of the whole thing.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is a question of national sentiment, it is a question of national pride. (Interruptions) Mr. Pradhan, are you defending it? Are you defending Godse? This is not correct. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 401 (Interruptions)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: You are defending the murderer of Gandhi? Why are you defending? We want to draw the attention of the Government and the Chairman because(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We don't want the Government to behave in an indisciplinary way on the issue of Gandhiji. That is all. We want to draw the attention of the House and the country towards the issue that the father of the Nation is insulted...(Interruptions)...

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You can raise it during the Zero Hour.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, we want to have a reaction of the Gov-

ernment. ...(Interruptions)... They have insulted Gandhiji. ...(Interruptions)... I am specifically referring to the news- item published in the *Indian Express*. Let at least a representative of the Government say on the floor of the House that they would look into it. ...(Interruptions)... I am drawing the attention of the Minister to the news- item which has appeared in the *Indian Express* today and I want to know whether the news is correct or incorrect. Let the Government say that they will look into it. ...(Interruptions)... He is the Father of the Nation. ...(Interruptions)... The Father of the Nation is denigrated, and you want us to remain silent! Simply, this is not possible. ...(Interruptions) I am specifically referring to the news-item which has appeared in the *Indian Express* today. This is the news-item. ...(Interruptions)... I expect a remark that the Government would respond to it. ...(Interruptions)... I would not say that the Government should simply.... (Interruptions).... The Government cannot remain silent on this matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, we are also equally concerned. (Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: We are also equally concerned. We also have respect for Gandhiji. It is not a question of your Gandhiji. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Government must respond to it. ...(Interruptions)...

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: सर, प्रणब मुखर्जी साहब को आम के कमरे में सुबह आना चाहिए था।...(व्यवधान)... ये अपना प्वाइंट वहां रेज करते। अब बाद में रेज कर लीजिएगा।...(व्यवधान)... न तो न्यूज आइटम का पता है, न किसी और चीज का पता है।...(व्यवधान)... आपको चाहिए था कि सभापित जी से परमीशन लेते। उन्हें वह दिखाते।...(व्यवधान)... आपको उनके पास जाना चाहिए था।...(व्यवधान)... यह गांधी जी के नाम पर ...(व्यवधान)... यह गांधी जी का तरीका नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Government must respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government must respond to it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't come to the well. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir the Government cannot remain silent on this matter. We cannot allow the House to run...*(Interruptions)*... This is the news-item that appeared in the *Indian Express*. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government must take cognizance of it, and if the Government only says that this news-item is totally wrong, I am prepared to accept even that, but unless the Government responds to it, it is very difficult for us to co-operate with them in (inducting the business of the House. This is my most respectful submission to you,' Sir. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot understand anything. *(Interruptions)*

The Home Minister wants to say something. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBAL: Sir, we can adjourn the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister is going to say something.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, an hon. Member from the other side has referred to some news-item, and I thought that, when you told him that you would look into it, he would be satisfied, but if they want to be satisfied only if I say it, then I would say that the Government also would look into it.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loans for Power Transmission in Andhra Pradesh

*401. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA

NAHATA:

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for loan assistance from Japan in respect of power transmission schemes in Visakhapatnam and Nellore; and

(b) the steps taken by the Central Electricity Authority to sanction the projects for loan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) had sent two project proposals viz. (i) Simhadri and Vizag Transmission System Project in Visakhapatnam, (ii) Krishanapatnam Transmission System Project in Nellore for OECF assistance. OECF, Japan has already sanctioned a loan of Japanese Yen 10629 million for Phase-I of the Transmission System for evacuation of Power from Vizag & Simhadri Power Stations. Krishanapatnam Transmission System Project has been examined by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the comments were sent to APSEB in October, 1997. The final Project Report for tech-no-economic clearance is now to be submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh/APSEB after incorporating the suggestions made by CEA.