

the market with this thing. The ban consists that if anybody sells common salt, he will be prosecuted. For what? For selling an essential commodity to a common man. Not only that. There is another thing. The production of common salt is allowed with the permission of the district collector for industrial purposes. This naturally leads to blackmarketing, hoarding and the effect is that the common man is kept away and he has to purchase this common salt at higher rates in the market. This ban is certainly uncalled for. I know there is a policy decision of the central Government that salt with iodine will be sold in the market by 1992, that in another five or six years, and that in phases. But now all of a sudden you are prohibiting sale of common salt in so many districts. It leads to nothing but hoarding, blackmarketing and difficulties to the common people for their every day necessities.

Madam, I would, therefore, like to suggest that there should be immediate directions given to the Government of Maharashtra that this ban may be revoked immediately, and also that the common salt as is currently sold in the market may be allowed to be sold in all the district along with the salt with iodine. Otherwise, what will happen is that the entire common salt will disappear from the market and in the villages there will be so much of a difficulty and it will give rise to institution of false cases against all those people who sell common salt. Therefore, necessary instructions may be issued to the Government of Maharashtra to allow to sell common salt along with the salt containing iodine. Thank you very much.

### Elections in Tripura

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I raise a matter which is not only of very great public importance but is also one which affects the quality of democracy in our country. Madam, Deputy Chairman, you are aware and most of the Members are also aware that almost all the opposition parties are united in desiring a mid-term poll for Parliament, and yet there is no mid-term poll. Why so? Because the ruling party has decided not to have any election at the Centre for the present. And

quite correctly therefore the Election Commission is not in a position to order General Elections for Parliament in the country. Quite appropriately so.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Because of the ruling party and as you know since we borrow customs from the United Kingdom, the elections are chosen... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The ruling party chooses the timing of elections and even for tactical reasons also, short term political tactical reasons, and therefore...

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH (Maharashtra): Tactical but practical reasons.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Tactical reasons which include practical ones.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH: Practical reasons, which include the tactical ones (Interruptions). And they are due...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You are absolutely right because the Constitution denies the right of recall. Madam, I am coming to the point. I am just trying to draw him to my side.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair please.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Thank you, Madam. He was addressing me and not via you. Therefore, I addressed him.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH: Are you aware that I face the Chair and I always address the Chair?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: However, Madam, I know what is appropriate and my friend also considers it as appropriate but what is appropriate does not seem to be as appropriate when he refers to States. There are several States, fortunately or unfortunately, where the party

[Shri Nirmal Chatterjee]

ruling at the Centre is not ruling in the States. In such States, when the ruling party which is opposed to the ruling party at the Centre desires that elections be held at the appropriate time, unfortunately, what seems to be a consistent, convenient, stand according to the Constitution at the level of the Centre is not considered so at the level of the State. One of the difficulties is this. Of course, no one knows the mind of another person; nobody can enter the mind of another. But judging by external events, one infers that in such cases, the decision on the timing of the election, as announced by the Election Commission is concerned more with the attitude of the Opposition than that of the ruling party in the State. Unfortunately for our polity, we know that the biggest political party in the country is somewhat allergic to elections. They do not hold elections within their organisation for almost a millenium and if any election is proposed anywhere, sometimes, they will go to the court to prevent the election as has happened in West Bengal.

Now, in Tripura, when the State Government have suggested—when they have decided on many practical considerations as my valued colleague Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh says—that elections should be held by the turn of the year, by the end of the year, the Opposition Congress (I) Party prefers to postpone the elections as much as possible. They have approached the Election Commission so that the elections may not be held now. It is reported and the Chief Minister of Tripura has gone to the Press saying that this is a situation where the will of the Government of Tripura is being violated for reasons one does not know because one does not know the mind of another person.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH (Punjab) : Murders are taking place there (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : That is true. It is absolutely true. In that case, the Government of India should have abdicated because they are unable to control violence anywhere in the country includ-

ing Punjab. The point is not of violence at all. All preparations are ready. The Election Commission says...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your time is up.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : The Election Commission says that the State is geared for the elections.\*

Therefore, this is being delayed. Through you, Madam, and through the House, I request that the Election Commission should revise its attitude and along with this, we should consider, the House should consider, the problem of electoral reforms when such things can be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people and not according to the wishes of the Election Commission.

Thank you.

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH : Madam, I strongly resent the allegation made against the Election Commission in the last sentence of the hon. Member's Special Mention. I request you to expunge it from the record. The Election Commission is an independent body and an autonomous authority constituted under the Constitution of India. The House cannot allow this. We cannot allow anybody to cast aspersions. Just like we do not talk about judges of the Supreme Court or the High Courts... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will go through the record.

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH : We cannot allow anybody to cast aspersions on an independent institution. I request you to expunge the last sentence of the hon. Member's speech.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will go through the record. (*Interruptions*) If anything is objectionable, I will remove it.

Now, Mr. Gurupadaswamy please.

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH  
(Bihar):\*

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY  
(Karnataka): Madam, elections should be  
held free and fair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please  
be very brief. You are only associating  
yourself. Keep it in mind.

SHRI. M. S. GURUPADASWAMY :  
I will sit quiet if you do not want me to  
do that. I have to associate myself.

The elections have to be held free and  
fair. While holding the elections the rul-  
ing party's view has got to be respected  
whether it is at the Centre or at the State  
level, subject to, of course, the constitu-  
tional law. Here Tripura Government has  
suggested that election should be held  
before the end of December, if I am cor-  
rect. The Election Commission has sug-  
gested some other date. They have sug-  
gested the end of January. So there is a  
difference of one month. I do not think, if  
there is any violence, it will be removed  
in these 30 days. I think there is some  
other reason behind this postponement. I  
feel that the Government of India is pres-  
surising the Election Commission. Other-  
wise, there is no other reason. Within 30  
days' violence may not be removed. There-  
fore, Election Commission should observe  
certain norms. I do not want to criticise  
the Election Commission. It is a statutory  
authority but I am entitled to point out  
that this statutory body should observe  
certain norms which are applicable uni-  
versally throughout India.

In this particular case I would like the  
Election Commission to respect the deci-  
sion of the State Government. The State  
Government feels that elections can be  
held before the end of December and that  
should be honoured.

It is the right of the ruling party to de-  
cide the time of the election. That right  
should not, in any manner, be abridged or

taken away by the Election Commission.  
The supreme or the main task of the Elec-  
tion Commission is to see that election is  
held fairly and properly.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) :  
माननीय उपसभापति जी, श्री चटर्जी ने  
जो त्रिपुरा में चुनावों के संबंध में विशेष  
उल्लेख किया है, मैं उसका पूर्णतः समर्थन  
करता हूँ।

महोदया, हमारी सरकार समस्याओं  
के समाधान करने में तो नालायक साबित  
हो ही रही है, लेकिन यह सरकार यहां  
पर समस्या नहीं है वहां पर समस्या  
खड़ा करने में बड़ी एक्सपर्ट साबित हो  
रही है। त्रिपुरा में बड़ी कठिन परि-  
स्थिति है। वहां पर वामपंथी सरकार है।  
समस्याओं का निदान कर रही है  
बजाय इसके कि शासक पार्टी उनको  
मदद करे, यह सरकार उल्टी दिशा में  
जा रही है। हमारे प्रधानमंत्री ने वामपंथी  
नेताओं और वामपंथी सरकार पर  
बार बार हमला करने का इरादा कर  
लिया है। देश के जो डिवीसिव फोर्सेज  
हैं, उनसे लड़ने के लिए जो अपना खून  
देकर भी राष्ट्रीय एकता कायम कर रही  
है, आप उसकी मदद नहीं कर रहे हैं।  
इसलिए मैं शासक पार्टी के माननीय  
सदस्यों से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह समझें  
कि देश की क्या स्थिति है और उसमें  
त्रिपुरा का चुनाव बड़ा ही लाभदायी  
सिद्ध होगा। इसलिए उसका जल्दी से  
जल्दी करवाने की जो राज्य सरकार ने  
सिफारिश की है, उसका केन्द्र सरकार  
अनुमोदन करे। इलेक्शन कमीशन स्वायत्त  
तभी रहेगा जब राज्य सरकार की वाजिव  
मांग को वह माने। अगर केन्द्र के हुक्म  
पर ही वह चलता रहेगा तो यह धारणा  
फैलेगी कि वह सरकार की बात मानता  
है। इसलिए यदि वहां पर चुनाव आयोग  
को चुनाव कराने के लिए राज्य सरकार  
की बात माननी चाहिए।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu):  
Madam, I strongly support the views ex-  
pressed by Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee, Shri  
Gurupadaswamy and Mishraji. Even after  
getting bitter lessons in some of the States,  
Congress (I) has not learnt any lesson

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

Election Commission should not play in the hands of the Central Government and the Congress (I) party. I deplore any such attempt by the ruling party and also the Election Commission. Therefore, I would request this Government and the Election Commission, through you, to agree to the views expressed by the Tripura Government.

#### Need for rail-link between Arrah and Sasaraw

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : (बिहार) : माननीया उपसभापति महोदया, सर्वोच्च सत्ता संपन्न इस संस्था में जब कोई विशेष उल्लेख किया जाता है तो सरकार को उसके महत्व को समझना चाहिए। लेकिन ऐसा लगता है। मैं अपने अनुभव से कह रहा हूँ कि पिछले सत्र से लेकर हमने 7-8 विशेष उल्लेख किये लेकिन एक-दो छोड़ कर किसी का भी जवाब नहीं आया। इसका मतलब है कि इस संस्था की गरिमा को सरकार गिरा रही है। मुझे याद है कि 20 साल पहले जब मैं असेम्बली में था तो एक दो शब्द भी किसी समस्या पर आदमी बोलता था तो उसके ऊपर सरकार तुरन्त कार्रवाई करती थी, जांच करवाती थी। यहां विशेष उल्लेख का मतलब एक साधारण क्वेश्चन से भी कम है। एक स्टार्ड क्वेश्चन का जवाब भी सरकार 10 दिन में मंगा कर देती है लेकिन विशेष उल्लेख में जिसके लिए विशेष समय दिया जाता है, सबसे गहरी चिन्ता की बात है कि एक भी मंत्री हाजिर नहीं रहता। एक आध स्टेट मिनिस्टर रहता हो तो रहता हो। संयोग से अब कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर बैठे हैं वह भी इसलिए कि उनका बिल है।

उपसभापति : आपका स्पेशल मेशन कस्ट्रक्शन आफ रेलवे लाइन पर है। उस पर कहिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आप से मैं अनुरोध करूंगा कि आप सरकार को सलाह दें और निर्देश दें आप इस कुर्सी

पर बैठी हैं कि जब विशेष उल्लेख हो तो कोई न कोई मंत्री हर विभाग का सदन में हाजिर रहे। जो सवाल उठाये जाते हैं उनकी संवेदनशीलता को समझ सकें इसके लिए आवश्यक है वह उपस्थित रहें।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहां एक छोटी लाइट रेलवे थी आरा-सासाराम मार्टिन-बर्न लाइट रेलवे। यह आरा और सासाराम को मिलाती थी। उस लाइन को इन लोगों ने खत्म कर दिया। कम्पनी ने खत्म कर दिया। सरकार ने आश्वासन दिया था कि इसकी जगह पर हम बड़ी लाइन लगायेंगे जो आरा-सासाराम को जोड़ेगी। सासाराम ऐतिहासिक शेरशाह की जन्मभूमि है। ये दो जिले हो गये हैं। आरा हो गया है भोजपुर जिला राजधानी और सासाराम रोहतास जिला राजधानी। इस बीच में 62 मील यानी करीब-करीब 100 किलोमीटर की जमीन है। यह उपजाऊ जमीन है। इसमें 5-6 दर्जन चावल की मिले हैं। रोहतास इंडस्ट्री के ऊपर प्लेटों है कैम्पेयर पहाड़ियां हैं। आने-जाने में दिक्कत होती है। चम्बल की घाटी की तरह वहां की स्थिति है। आये दिन 10-15 डाकू पड़े रहते हैं। कई बार सरकार ने कहा कि हम लोग प्लानिंग कर रहे हैं। हमने सुना कि रेलवे ने माप भी कराया है जमीन की। दो-तीन बार माप हो चुकी है। छोटी लाइन की जमीन थी सारे दफ्तर सारे स्टेशन ज्यों के त्यों हैं। लेकिन अभी तक उस पर आगे कोई भी कार्रवाई नहीं हो पा रही है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विल्कुल कैटेगोरिकली आन्सर चाहता हूँ।

1 P.M. और इस सत्र के अन्त तक यानी

12 तारीख तक सरकार इसका जवाब दे दें। जब स्टार्ड क्वेश्चन का जवाब 10 दिन के अन्दर दिया जा सकता है तो इसका जवाब क्यों नहीं दिया जा सकता है। आखिर मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह रेलवे लाइन बनेगी या नहीं? अगर आपने इसको बनाने का प्रस्ताव किया है तो क्या आपने इसका काम शुरू कर दिया है यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ