

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 24th July, 1986/
2 *Sravana*, 1908 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inquiry into the al'egation, against lotteries organised by Churhat Chil- dren's Welfare Society

*101. SHBI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-
YEE:
SHBI LAL K. ADVANI:t

Will the Minister of HOME
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on
June 25, 1985 his Ministry wrote to
the Director, Lotteries, Bhopal, enqui-
ring into some allegations about the
lotteries organised by Churhat Child-
ren's Welfare Society;

(b) whether Government's atten-
tion has been drawn to the rews re-
ports appearing in 'Sunday' of April
S7 and May 25, 1986 to the effect that
violation of 'Central Government
guidelines, 1984', also a fraud invol-
ving crores of rupees, has taken
place; and

(c) if so, what are the allegations
amd whether the facts in this ragard
have been ascertained, if so, what
are the details thereof and what ac-
tion has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has seen the re-
port which appeared in the 'Sunday'
issue of 27 April—3 May, 1986. No re-
peat in this regard seems to have
appeared in the issue of 4 May—10
May, 1986.

(c) The report is about a private
lottery organised by the Churhat
Children Welfare Society. Private
lotteries are entirely within the juris-
diction of State Governments. The
matter has been referred to the Gov-
ernment of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I
take strong exception to this blatant
attempt to conceal a stinking scandal.
I wish Government were frank about
it. I can understand that there are
limitations within which Central
Government functions but having said
'yes' in his answer to part one of my
question whether it is a fact that on
June 25, 1985, his Ministry
wrote to the Director Lotteries, Bho-
pal enquiring into some allegations
about the lotteries organised by Chur-
hat Children Welfare Society.

I had expected the Government to
tell us what is the response to this en-
quiry and what subsequent action has
been taken thereupon. Sir, in this
Very House a year back my colleague
from Madhya Pradesh, Shri Nand
Kishore Bhatt, had raised issues rela-
ting to lottery rackets, lottery Bcan-
dals, and the Finance Minister, Shri
Vishwanath Pratap Singh, committed
to this House and I quote:

"On 11th March, 1985, the Direc-
tor Inspection Investigation of the
Income-tax Department has been
asked to take a survey of lotteries
with a view to ascertaining detail*
of organisers, details of lotteries
organised, amount collected, amount
of price distribution per lottery,
amount and details of expenses, tax
deduction and payment. Approp-
riate action will be taken depend-
ing on the evidences."

I would like to know from the Minis-
ter whether this particular enquiry
that the Finance Minister committed
in this House has covered the Churhat
lotteries also. Is it a fact that the

†The question was actually asked
on the floor of the House by Shri Lal K. Advani.

Secretary of this Churhat lotteries is Mr. Ajay Singh, son of Mr. Arjun Singh? Is it a fact that the treasurer of these lotteries is Mr. Bhubaneswar Prasad Singh, son-in-law of Mr. Arjun Singh, the former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh? Is it a fact that the president of these lotteries is a sitting Member of Parliament and is it because of these VIP associations that the Government is going soft on this investigation? Lotteries have become a major racket and I would be happy if lotteries are banned altogether. They are in a way looting the poor people. It is not affluent who are contributing to this, so, this is my question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: As is evident from the supplementary of the hon. Member, the purpose of asking the question is not to elicit information or the facts, but obviously, as he has brought the names of certain persons and sitting MPs, I am sorry, unless I have the information with me, how can I give it to the House? My answer to the main question is that we have addressed the State Governments. In the absence of the information how can I answer all those supplementaries which have nothing to do with the question asked?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You are the best judge, Mr. Chairman. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Secondly, Sir, that inspection is supposed to be done by the Ministry of Finance. As and when we get the information from the Ministry of Finance, only then we will be able to answer that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I seek your indulgence. I had asked questions and this is not a matter which can be shut out on the plea that it refers to the State lotteries. State lotteries had been discussed. This is the commitment made. Inrur.

suance of that, does the investigation cover the Churhat lottery? If so, what is the result of investigation and whether what I have mentioned is a fact?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the answer of the Minister is that he has called for the report and he has not got it

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: In June '85, Sir? Till now has there been no reply to this query to which the Minister has said "yes". He has said that he has written a letter. Has there been any response to that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can do one thing. I can direct the Home Minister to get the reply as quickly as possible. That is all. If he has no information...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, there is a reply and the reply is not given in the House. I am sure a letter written to the State Government way back in 1985 cannot remain unanswered till this day. But if the answer is there and the House is not taken into confidence about it, what can I infer except that it is being concealed from the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister have you got a reply from the Madhya Pradesh Government with regard to the question which you addressed to them. That is the main thing.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, as I have mentioned, in my reply to part (a) of the question. I have said, "Yes, Sir", and that was a very, very limited query. One of the persons who bought the ticket could not get his prize because the claim was time-barred. Under the rules, he was supposed to file his claim within 45 days and the information with me is that he filed his claim after 225 days. That is all. And as it was time-barred it could not be entertained. ^

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My second question was about the investigation, made by the Director of Income Tax. Has it covered that very lottery. Moreover, what is the outcome?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you information about the investigation conducted by the Finance Ministry?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, this was a general policy. The Ministry of Finance took the entire country and they held inspection of all these societies and the things covered under that. We do not have any information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further question, Mr. Advani?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Is the Government..

SHRI THANGABAALU: How many questions, Sir? Already you have given him a lot of chance.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: It is the discretion of the Chair. Why are you shouting?

SHRI THANGABAALU: I am asking the Chairman.

SHRI K. MEHANAN: It is his prerogative.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I have mentioned the Finance Ministry, but because the Home Minister is taking the plea that the Finance Ministry is separate, I would like to know from the Home Minister whether on 21-7-84 and on 27-2-85—these two specific dates—the Home Ministry issued very specific guidelines to various State Governments in so far as private lotteries are concerned and whether it has been examined if this Churhat Lottery has been following those guidelines or not.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Yes, Sir, we issued guidelines and I want to mention for the information of this hon. House that there are three kinds of lotteries—one which are under the Government of India, the others which are under the State Government and the third category is to which the hon. Member is making a reference. The first two categories are on the Central list. The last one is on the State list. Naturally, if there is some query and if we have

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got to give the answer, we have to ask the State Government to furnish the information. Therefore, according to the guidelines also, this third category falls under the State list for which the answer lies with the State Government. We have not only issued the guidelines, but have also impressed upon the States and the Union Territories to see that these guidelines are adhered to. Some of the States have suggested further improvements in the guidelines and are following them.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: So far as I understand..

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Excuse me. Sir, am I permitted to make a submission?'

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: According to the rules and conventions of this House, if the hon. Member makes a mention of some hon. Members of the other House, their names cannot be allowed to be brought on the record of this House.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: There is no such rule.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: There are conventions. I want your ruling; Sir, The hon. Member has mentioned the names of two hon. Members of the other House.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: No, no. there is no such convention. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please I am giving a ruling. You cannot cast any aspersions on the Members of either this House or the other House. Merely saying he is his son-in-law is not an aspersion, unless it is meant to be so. I take it is not an aspersion.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: So far as I understand this Churhat Children's Welfare Society was permitted to organise the lottery in February, 1984. The guidelines were subsequently

issued in June or July 1984 and then in June 1985. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister whether these guidelines issued subsequently are also applicable to this lottery. Or are the guidelines issued during the earlier period—earlier than the date on which permission was granted for organising the lottery—applicable in the matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question? You know the answer yourself.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Sir, I seek your protection. Because an allegation has been made by one Member that the guidelines were flouted, the question of flouting the guidelines which were issued subsequently does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you must put the question like this: were the guidelines issued after the permission was granted?

श्री जगतपाल सिंह ठाकुर: मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिन गाइडलाइन्स के बारे में अभी पूछा गया है कि उनसे पहले क्या यह लोटरी रजिस्टर्ड हो चुकी थी, इसलिये क्या ये गाइडलाइन्स उस पर भी लागू होती हैं?

श्री बुढा सिंह: मेरी सुचना के मुताबिक उनको पहले लायसेंस जारी हो चुका था। गाइडलाइन्स बाद में आई हैं।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, the Minister, says that they have addressed a letter about the lottery in question. We can only reply or reports and whatever information is available in the press. The Home Minister says that he has seen the report appearing in the Sunday. There are reports that a Madras police officer who got a prize submitted his ticket in time through his bank. Then there is another case wherein a banker himself went to Churhat. He was told that the address was somewhere in Rewa. They also went to Rewa. In the meantime the period of 45 days.

or whatever it is, lapsed and nobody could get the correct address. The photostat copy is there that the addressee is not available on this address. In view of this I want to know something from the Home Minister. The Collector of Churhat has given permission for one year only. There are 12 or more draws. Crores of rupees have been collected. Ag has been mentioned, Rs. 80 crores have been collected. If the children are really benefited, it is all right, I am not bothered about the persons concerned, whether it is this person or that person. I am not interested in that. But 80 crores have been collected and swindled straightway. The children for whom the lottery was run are not benefited and you say the guidelines are issued. The purchasers are usually in the States, whether it is the Churhat Lottery or Sikkim Lottery or any other lottery. Will the Government take the view that these guidelines will be corrected and only State Governments will be allowed to float these lotteries? Otherwise the private parties have made a racket of this and swindled the money of the poor people enriching themselves.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, it is a very good suggestion for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One point which he has raised, Mr. Minister... (Interruptions)... I am going to ask.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What is meant by a good suggestion. He must say if a good suggestion he will act on. It is just like chanting the Geeta. It is helpful neither to him nor to me. Geeta I know already. Mr. Buta Singh you say that the suggestion will be implemented or will not be implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The one point which he raised, but he himself was not able to put to you was about the permission given for only one draw of the lottery while many draws were drawn. Is that the case?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, the information has to come from the State Government.

MU, CHAIRMAN: You don't know?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: No, Sir,

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Please protect me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: We, in the opposition, are putting straight question, but the questions which are inconvenient to him—not personally to Mr. Buta Singh, but to the Government he is throwing the dust on the State Government or is saying that the information is being called for. Now he says the guidelines have been issued. And the question which he wants to avoid his party Members are helping him to avoid. And if we take some names, then also his party member; are there to protect their President or Vice-President. So, my request to you is to kindly ask the Minister to place the information on the Table of the House as early as possible. We do not want to wash the dirty linen here on the floor of the Rajya Sabha.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): I do not want to get involved in answering the question which I am sure the Home Minister will do, but I would just like to raise a point. The comment of the Hon. Member demeaning the Geeta should be withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Home Minister, what will you do as soon as you get the report from the State Government? That is the sum and substance of his question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: As you direct, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Ball is in your court. You kindly direct now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without your prompting I am going to say.

The Minister will place it on the Table of the House. Next question No. 102.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, let me put a question. It is a very serious thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has said he has no information, that he will collect the information.

I have given a direction that when it is collected it should be placed on the Table of the House. You will have plenty of opportunity to put question afterwards. I have called the next question.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, there should be a time-limit.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please sit down? The point really is that it should not be delayed unduly. You should get it as early as possible and place it on the Table of the House. Is it all right.

Now, we go on to the next question. Pending Freedom Fighters' Pansloa Cases.