

Sabha is a very old institution. For the Minister to say that he has no information about the stoppage of the grant to the Assam Sahitya Sabha in the last three years and for them to come on the floor of the House when it is time for supplementaries and for the hon. Minister to say that he does not have the information.. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not got it. He has been honest enough to say that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is also something which follows from that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is willing to satisfy you later.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We must have a categorical assurance on when he will let the House have this information.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: This is a literary institution. That is why I am saying that if the hon. Member desires to know about the details, I will give the details.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: To say that he does not have the details is highly simplistic.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not have the details here, you cannot just manufacture them.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR BASUMATARI: I want to know whether it is a fact that the Social Welfare Centre has deteriorated since the time of the Janata Government and due to that fact whether it is a fact or not that the Assam Sabha Samiti has been locked up due to quarrel among the office bearers.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: A Delhi based organisation, it is, Sir.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: We know there is some problem in the Assam Sabha Samiti located in Assam. The detailed report, we do not have. We are looking into that. When their own feuds amongst themselves are over, we will consider their grants also.

Lease of Jinnah House in Bombay for Pakistan Mission

*142. SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Pakistan Government had been assured that the Jinnah House in Bombay would be leased to them for the residence of their Consul-General; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) A request had been received from the Government of Pakistan for the lease of Jinnah House. However, it has not been found possible to accede to this request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Almost the whole House wants to ask questions. Mr. Khushwant Singh.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will agree that this makes a most strange preamble to the treaty of friendship that the Foreign Minister and the Government have been telling us that they are prepared to have Pakistan. Let me briefly give a slight background to the Jinnah House. It was leased to the British Government for their Consulate. The lease was due to expire in 1981 and our Government gave a solemn assurance to the Pakistanis that the Jinnah House will be made over to the Government of Pakistan as soon as the lease expired. And when the British wanted an extension of the lease, our Government went out of the way to tell the British Government to make the request to the Pakistanis. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Ramanand Yadav, I am quoting the most impeccable source, that is, my own column.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With or without malice?

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: With malice, of course!

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir on the 30th April, 1982,

the house was vacated by the British Consulate and twice in the Lok Sabha, the Foreign Minister himself made a solemn statement in reply to a question, I think, by Mr. Banatwala. I just quote his words:

"The premises would be available on lease to the proposed Consulate General of Pakistan to be used exclusively for residential purposes. The terms and conditions of the lease are being worked out."

I am again quoting my own column. This is the statement he made to the Lok Sabha, I think, in answer to a question by Mr. Banatwala. It is a repetition. It is a second time he made the statement. Then early this year January, 1966, Mr. Natwar Singh himself went to the Pakistan Embassy and repeated the assurance to the Pakistan Ambassador that this house would be made over to them on lease. The British Consulate was paying Rs. 30,000 per month. They decided to charge more than double that amount, Rs. 70,000 per month. All these details were worked out. And now they come and tell us that the matter is under consideration. It is even more remarkable than his own Ambassador, our own Ambassador in Pakistan, made a statement yesterday to the press. It is reported by the PTI. And this is what he says:

"Referring to the opening of the Pakistan Consulate in Bombay, Mr. Sharma said that the Government of India had accorded all possible facilities to rent suitable office accommodation."

It is not only residence but also office accommodation. All this has gone through. Now it is absolutely incredible and amounts to nothing short of breach of faith.

There are three points that I would like the Foreign Minister to clarify. First, what does he think will be the impact of this kind of behaviour on our relationship with Pakistan, with whom we have said many times that we mean to be very friendly? Secondly, what will happen to our image when you as Foreign Minister make a solemn statement in Parliament

and give this assurance and then you withdraw from it without any explanation except this banal statement that we are not going to carry out the promise that we have given? And finally, here is the human factor. Over 30,000 to 40,000 Indian citizens go to visit their relations in Pakistan. Some woman whose son has died in Pakistan needs a visa immediately. The only choice she has now is to go to Delhi, whereas a substantial proportion of the people who need visa come from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Is this not incredible hardship for these people? I would like him to answer all these three questions.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have noted Mr. Khushwant Singh's reliance on his own column and that reassures me to some extent. I thought that he would be quoting something much more difficult to answer, but he has rendered my task easier. Sir, we have been talking about this matter with the Government of Pakistan, with the leaders of Pakistan. But there has been no commitment made to the Government of Pakistan. This is the first thing I would like to bring to the notice of the House. It is true that we wanted the house back, we wanted the British to vacate it, they wanted to stay there for some time more. We did not want them to stay there and, therefore, they vacated it. Later on, we have since examined the relevant aspects of the matter and come to the conclusion I have just stated. I answered a question in March 1982. That is why I say we have since gone into several relevant aspects of the matter and come to this conclusion.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, you will agree that this is the most unsatisfactory answer. He has made a solemn commitment. It is not a question of going into the matter. Solemn commitments have been made. What I would like to know is this: Is it your objecting to that house or your objecting to the Pakistanis opening their consulate? What will happen to our consulate in Karachi? We have got 70 people working there.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: In any case this was not for use as an office. Let this be made quite clear. It was to be used exclusively for residential purposes. So, all the questions which the honourable Member has raised about the desire-ability of having a consulate office there in order to avoid hardship to people going there for visas, etc. etc. are irrelevant. This building was to be used only as residence of the consul-general, if at all—it had been leased to them, if and when it was leased—to them. Therefore, the other questions which he has raised are not relevant.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I seek your protection. He is evading the question. Are you allowing the consulate or not?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are allowing the consulate in Bombay, not in the particular building to which the question pertains.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now he has answered the question.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: I am quoting his own words. He is eating his own words...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where are the words?

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Let me repeat. These are the words used. The question was about the Jimiah House. "The premises would be made available on lease to the proposed Consulate-General of Pakistan to be used exclusively for the residential purposes. The terms and conditions of the lease are being worked out." And the terms and conditions of lease have been worked out by Mr. Nat-war Singh and others on a rental of Rs. 20,000...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: See the very first sentence. This is what I have said and repeated. This building was intended to be used for residence. All the questions which he has raised about the office being there or the office

not being there, people being put to hardship—there was no commitment—these are irrelevant...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was no commitment.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are still prepared to, we are still trying to get accommodation for them. We have written to the Government of Maharashtra. We are waiting for the response of the Government of Maharashtra. We are doing everything that is possible to see that they get accommodation for the consulate.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: I protest. I have asked my question specifically regarding the Jinnah House. The commitment was specifically regarding the Jinnah House. He is evading an answer...

MR. CHAIRMAN: For residence only. Pakistanis want to have an office there. That is not the question. They want that house as residence of the Consul-General.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The three questions which he has raised in his first supplementary are completely answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dinesh Goswami,

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he knows that though the original idea of using this house by the Pakistan Embassy for its Consulate seems to have been lost, the idea was to have it for only residential purposes. There have been subsequent statements from high officials that this house has particular emotive content for Pakistani people because this was the birth-place of Pakistan. Though the original idea seems to have been lost, may I know whether the Government have studied this aspect?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yes, we have studied those aspects. There have been statements to this effect. I

did not want to go into details because only after considering all those aspects we have come to this conclusion.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, I am rather concerned about the status of Jinnah House. Is it the property of the Central Government or is it an evacuee property or is it enemy property or a private property...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is the property of the Government of India.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: As &"" as I know Jinnah's only living direct descendent is an Indian citizen and to that extent *is this property jointly owned by the Government and that private person?* Or, is it an exclusive property of the Central Government to be used at its own discretion? If the Government of India does not wish now to lease it *to the Pakistani Consul-General exclusively for the purpose of residence*, then what is the alternative use that you are thinking of this building?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The position is that this property vests in the Ministry of Works and Housing and its present use is regulated by the Ministry of External Affairs. In addition to all the considerations *to which reference was made by Mr. Dinesh Goswami just now*, the fact that certain claims have preferred which we have not accepted—> they have been preferred nevertheless—and the possibility of the premises being used by us ourselves have also been considered before coming "to this conclusion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Patel.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण : श्रीमन्, किसी मेम्बर का नाम आप नहीं जानते तो उसका नम्बर नहीं आएगा ?

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए ।

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: There are certain issues which should not be made controversial, especially issues to which

sentimental values are attached should be taken out of such controversy. If you remember, we wanted the India House in London and the great library which was built up there. We insisted that those should go to India and it is with us now. India and Pakistan, similarly, have common legacy. For instance, take Lahore which was the headquarters of the Servants of the People Society started by Lala Lajpat Rai. They had their property there. That is also a historical place. There are such places either in India or Pakistan and issues relating to these will have to be considered by the respective Governments. They should be taken out of controversy and should be considered only from the view-point of historical importance. Keeping this viewpoint in mind, may I know whether the Government will reconsider their decision on this?

I also happened to read that studied article by Shri Khushwant Singh giving facts and figures and I was convinced by the arguments. Will the Government reconsider the whole thing if they have not taken a final decision? He never asked whether it will be used as office. The question is whether it will be allowed to be used for the residence of the Htgrr Commisloner or Consul-General or whoever he is.

So, if that decision" is not taken, I would like to know from the Government whether it will reconsider this question keeping in view this wide range in order to create goodwill. I would like to know whether the Government will reconsider this keeping in mind the fact that *the steps which they are already trying to take to create friendship*, these things will add to them. So, I would like to know whether the Government will reconsider this.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the honourable Member has raised the level of the question and the matter to "certain generalities and certain reciprocity. Now, Sir, that is not at all the intent of the question and, so I would not be able to make any comment on those aspects.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Sir, if that is not the intent then that is the context.

cannot consider such questions cutoff from this. (*Interruptions*). It has its context.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, the Government is avoiding the question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MANUBHAI PATBL, Sir, looking to the importance of this question, I did not want to criticise the Government and, looking to our national interests also, I did not criticise the Government and that was why I raised it to that level. I am sorry, Sir, that the External Affairs Minister did not raise himself to that level.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO; No, Sir. The point is this: I have myself acknowledged the height, to which he has raised the matter. But I have only said that at this moment, in connection with this question, I am not in a position to make any comment. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow everybody to put questions on this. Yes, Mr. Tiwari.

SHRI V. N. TIWARI: Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister, after listening to Mr. Khushwant Singh and other friends, what really made the Government change its mind at some stage. Is it because a lot of Indian property is also in Pakistan or are there other reasons which are standing in the way of certain agreements so that these issues can be dealt with at that level—not this one house, but many other things, can be sorted out at that level? I would like to know from the honourable Minister what the reason is for their change of mind.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO; Sir, in reply to Mr. Shahabuddin's supplementary, I have summed up the considerations which weighed with the Government and to the extent of that question that happens to be the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. This will never be solved. Now, I will go to the next question. Question No. 143. Mr. J. K. Jain is not here.

*143. [*The questioner (Shri J. K. Salt) was absent for answer vide col... infra*].

MR. CHAIRMAN; Question No. 144. Mr. Khan. Not here. Yes, Mr. Rama-nand Yadav.

Dinner hosted by the Pakistani President in Gilgit

*144. SHRI F. M. KHAN:

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV†

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani President hosted a dinner for foreign diplomats at Gilgit in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which is an integral part of India;

to) whether Government have lodged protest the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आज के दिनों में सरकार को यह भी बात मालूम है कि पाकिस्तान की असेम्बली में तीन दिनों तक भारत के सम्बन्ध में बहस होती रही और उस बहस के दौरान भारत के सम्बन्ध में तरह-तरह के एलीगेंस लगाये गये ? यहाँ तक कि केस्टीगेंडेड मूड में पाकिस्तान के फारेन मिनिस्टर ने एक भाषण दिया और एक महिला ने तो यहाँ तक कहा कि तीन दिन की बहस के दौरान खालिस्तान मूवमेंट को पाकिस्तान को खुले रूप से मदद करनी चाहिये ? क्या इसके पहले भारत के जो राजदूत श्री के० डी० शर्मा हैं, उनको पाकिस्तान सरकार ने इस्लामाबाद से बाहर जाने की परमिशन नहीं दी थी ? दो महीने तक उनकी एप्लीकेशन पड़ी रही । ऐसी हालत में मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह बैन जो पाकिस्तान की सरकार ने भारतीय राजदूत

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramanand Yadav.