

Restrictions on Palestinian students during President Carter's visit

*218. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:†

SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Palestinian students residing in Delhi were asked to stay indoors or to go out of Delhi during President Carter's recent visit to this country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Palestinian offices in New Delhi were searched by the Police; and

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the resentment of the Arab countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) There was reason to believe that the Palestinian students were planning to stage rowdy demonstration in Delhi during the visit of President Carter. In order to prevent any untoward incident, the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer, New Delhi, in exercise of his statutory powers as the civil authority under the Foreigners Act, 1946, issued appropriate orders restricting the movements of 12 Palestinian students who were registered in Delhi. These students were directed to stay at the places of their residence/hostel for a period of 10 days from December 29, 1977. Similarly, 5 Palestinian students who were registered at other places were also directed on 31st December, 1977, to leave Delhi immediately and report back to their original places of stay/registration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some Arab Representatives had spoken to the Foreign Minister in this regard.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, in the instance, I would like to say that the hon. Minister has stated that there were valid reasons. I would like to know whether he would like to disclose those valid reasons or not. The impression is that there were no valid reasons, but in fact this action was taken as desired by one of the foreign Governments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this impression is well founded or not. Besides, what was the reaction of the Arab countries when they spoke to the Foreign Minister? Did they convey their resentment? These things have to be stated clearly.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: I repudiate the suggestion of the hon. Member that it was done at the instance of any foreign Government. It was done in the interests of security and for protocol reasons because earlier the Police had to resort to baton charge in the case of six students and one Indian student. Six Palestinian students were taken into Police custody. The matter is still *sub judice*. The case has been filed under sections 145, 147 and 327 on 28-12-77. The incident was just on the eve of the visit and we had to take all possible care because the guest had been invited by us and we had to maintain security and for safety reasons we had to take all necessary care.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, I do not understand what protocol reasons were there. The honourable Minister said that protocol reasons were there. Besides, they had not indicated any intention of doing any mischief at the time of the visit of the US President. Therefore, I would like to know whether it was fair on our part to meet out such a treatment to our student guests who were studying in this country. We have always been talking of friendship with the Palestinian students, Palestinian people and the Palestinian refugees.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: Sir, we had to take all possible care under the

Foreigners Act. Under Section 11, the Government has the power to impose restrictions on movements, to direct by an order in writing that any foreigner shall comply with such conditions as may be prescribed in the order in respect of his place of residence, his movements, his association with any person or class of persons specified in the order, etc., etc. The Government had advance information that these Palestinian students were likely to create some disturbance which will not be in keeping with the dignity of the country because we had invited the foreign guest.

SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Sir, I want to know whether the protocol reasons that came to the notice of the Government were at the instance of the Government of India or at the instance of some other country outside.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already replied.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagdish Joshi. Not here. Yes, Mr. Ibrahim Kalaniya.

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : श्रीमन्, भारत में पिछले सालों में इजराइल के बारे में आर०एम०एस० और जनसंघ वाले लगातार प्रदर्शन करते थे। जब भारत की इजराइल के बारे में विदेश नीति तय थी तो क्या जनता सरकार बनने के बाद उस विदेश नीति में परिवर्तन हुआ है? क्या जनता सरकार ने अपने मैनिफेस्टो में अपनी राय या अपना विरोध प्रकट करने में सभी देशवासियों को पूरी आजादी देने का वचन दिया है और इसके बावजूद भी इन पैलेस्टीनियों के आन्दोलन के बारे में भारत के तथा हमारे मुल्कों के भारत में पढ़ रहे विद्यार्थियों ने अपने विचार व्यक्त करने के लिए प्रदर्शन किया तो उनको जेलों में ठूस दिया और मार-मार कर उनको प्रदर्शन नहीं करने दिया गया और जेल में भेज कर उनकी जमानत भी नहीं दी गई

इसका क्या कारण है? जनता पार्टी के लोकसभा के एक सदस्य श्री अर्जुनसिंह भदीरिया ने जनता सरकार की इसके लिए आलोचना की है तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे?

SHRI S. D. PATIL: Sir, this is an omnibus question. I am not able to follow what exactly the honourable Member wants me to reply to.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Are you trying not to understand it?

SHRI S. D. PATIL: I am trying to understand it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalaniya, if you put specific questions, it would be better.

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: I am putting a specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are trying to read out a lot of things. Put a supplementary directly. What do you want? Don't read out anything. You will be confused and you will confuse others also. Put your supplementary straightway.

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : केवल डेढ़ सफा है, ज्यादा नहीं है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why not put a straight supplementary?

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : मैंने पूछा था कि भारत में जो विदेशी विद्यार्थी पढ़ रहे हैं उनको विचार व्यक्त करने की आजादी नहीं दी गई, उनको जिन्होंने विरोध प्रदर्शन किया उनको मार-मार कर जेलों में डाल दिया, इसकी क्या वजह है?

MR CHAIRMAN: All right. Please resume your seat.

SHRI S. D. PATIL: Sir, I have not followed the question.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Now, it is a clear question, Sir. He

spoke only one sentence. What was the difficulty in understanding it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalaniya, will you repeat it? Or, I think, the Home Minister can reply to it.

श्री चरण सिंह : सभापति महोदय, यह जनता पार्टी के मैनिफेस्टो का जिक्र माननीय मित्र ने किया, इसका इससे कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है, यह नागरिकों की स्वतन्त्रता का प्रश्न है जो जनता मैनिफेस्टो में लिखा हुआ है, ये भारतीय स्टूडेंट्स हैं। इनके अलावा एक फारन गैस्ट आया हुआ है तो उनके खिलाफ डिमान्स्ट्रेशन करने का अधिकार इस जनता मैनिफेस्टो से नहीं मिलता, उसके सिलसिले में बाकायदा ऐक्ट है, कानून है जिसका जिक्र हमारे सहयोगी ने किया लिहाजा उसको कन्प्यूस न करें।

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how many foreign students from Delhi and how many from outside were there in the demonstration.

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL: In Delhi there are 17... (*Interruptions*). In Delhi, we have got 17, in Bombay 9, in Poona 5, in Chandigarh 29 and in Punjab 6.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: The hon. Home Minister, while intervening on behalf of his deputy... (*Interruptions*). Well, he is Minister of State. I did not say Deputy Minister. There is no Deputy Minister in Shri Morarji's Cabinet; I know that. He propounded a thesis which is very questionable. He said that the Janata Party manifesto, when it talks of civil liberties, talks of civil liberties of Indian citizens. It is a question of the entire concept of civil liberties. If England is known as the home of civil liberties, it is because it gave shelter to all those who were thrown out from Europe. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Is the hon. Minister aware that violation of

liberties of the people residing here also means violation of even the civil liberties to which the Janata Government is pledged? In view of this, will he see to it that the people are not beaten? Even if they are students, they should not be beaten like animals to please a foreign dignitary like Mr. Carter.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The hon. Member is excited for nothing, if I may say so. I do not know how many students from outside, staying here and given the facilities of studies, are entitled to make demonstrations against the guests of this country. And how can that form part of liberty? Even if a student does anything like that, we will have to restrain him and take action against him. But nobody should be beaten unless he takes to violence himself and they cannot help beating him. Otherwise there should be no beating of anybody. On that score I have no doubt. In this matter they behaved very badly. Therefore, they had to be dealt with. Violence has to be met by violence by the police. What else can the police do? I do not know what the hon. Member means by 'civil liberties'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Television Centre in Orissa

*219. SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a T.V. Centre in Orissa during the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. However, a TV transmitter will be commissioned shortly at Sambalpur under the SITE on-going scheme as part of the Fifth Plan proposals.

(b) Does not arise.