

Familiarising Civil Servants with the Political Philosophy and Objectives of Janata Government

*214. SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH: †
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: SHRI
PRAKASH MEHROTRA: SHRI
GURUDEV GUPTA; SHRI
SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary, in a recent letter addressed to all the Secretaries to the Government of India, has asked the civil servants to familiarise themselves with the political philosophy, objectives and approach of the Janata Government in various matters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI); (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The House is fully aware of the important role of the administrative machinery in assisting and advising Government in the formulation of policies and programmes and in their implementation. The House is also aware of the radical change that came over the entire country as a result of the elections to the Lok Sabha in March, 1977, and the consequential need for the administrative machinery to respond to the change. In such a situation, the need for general guidance to the top civil servants became absolutely necessary. It was in this context that the Cabinet Secretary wrote to Secretaries to Government to familiarise themselves with the new Government's objectives and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Hamida Habibullah.

approach to economic and administrative matters. In this connection, the Janata Party's manifesto, the decisions of the new Government and various announcements on policy made by the Prime Minister were referred as the indicative of Government's objectives and approach.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: Sir, in all humility, I would ask the Prime Minister as to what the Government means by asking the officers to familiarise themselves with the Janata Party's political philosophy and follow the Janata Party's manifesto. Are the officers going to be treated like machines and mercenaries who keep changing their attitude to suit every party's manifesto? Sir, if the Janata Party is replaced by another party—and the way the law and order situation is deteriorating every day, it may easily happen—what happens to all these officers? All the basic policies of socialism and democracy are already laid down very clearly in our Constitution. The administration should be based on those basic objectives. Why is it necessary to follow the manifestoes?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I do not want to refer to the comments made by the hon. Member outside the House because that is not necessary. But there is no question of making officers in any way committed to this Government; that was the privilege of the last Government. We want that the Government cheers and the staff should work honestly and that they should advise us with their honest and independent views. But when ever they have to advise, they have also to familiarise themselves with the policies which this Government follows in the matter of economic development and other programmes. The Constitution, the hon. Member ought to know, gives principle and not programmes. She does not seem to know it. They are to be framed by the Government and the Government frames them according to the policies of the party which is in power, and that is why they are informed about

the policies and the programmes which the party has. That does not mean that they have no freedom to offer their comments on them. Whenever the programmes come, they have to offer their comments and give their advice, and they are free to do so.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBUL-LAH: The election manifesto is meant for the election, and it is not the Government programme. In fact, the Janata Party is not following its manifesto at all.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I do not know whether the hon. Member, even though she is a Member of the Rajya Sabha, knows the functioning of the Government and of the party. Because she does not stand in any election, does she mean she had nothing to do with manifestoes and policies? The manifesto given in the election and the principles given therein are meant to be carried out by that party if they get charge of Government. That she ought to know. This is a preliminary thing which any school boy will know.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBUL-LAH: I have fought and won an election in 1969 and also have the honour of becoming a Minister in Uttar Pradesh. I also know very clearly—I think most of the people agree—that the manifesto is not the Government programme.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: The Illustrated Weekly of India of November 13 carries an interview with Shri Charan Singh, the Home Minister. In that interview—I am quoting from the paper—he says: "The circular issued by the Cabinet Secretary was asking the civil servants to familiarise themselves with the contents of the Janata Party manifesto." I want to know whether he wanted them to be familiarised with the manifesto which has been violated repeatedly with respect to MISA, LIC bonus and remunerative prices to the peasants. Does he say that the civil servants who are there for so many years working in the Ministries of the Central Government,

are so illiterate that they do not know what is happening in the country and is he asking them to study the manifesto of the Janata Party and also to familiarise themselves with the new Government's objectives and approaches to economic and administrative matter? There is an ice-cream called "three-in-one", and the Janata Party is like four-in-one or four-and-a-half-in-one. When the Prime Minister himself had to say that no statement except his own should be taken as a policy statement, when this is the state of the house of the Janata Party, why is he calling upon the civil servants who are intelligent enough to know what is happening in the country, to study the particular manifesto which has been repeatedly violated during the last eight months?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I do not know whether the hon. Member's comment calls for any reply. He can utilise his privilege as a Member of this House to say whatever he likes. But I cannot be in that category. I have, therefore, to speak only relevant matters. I do not understand what he meant by saying that we have violated any part of our policies. There is no part which is violated. He quoted the example of MISA. MISA has not been used even in one case in all these months. And it is going to come here for repeal very soon. Let the hon. Member have some patience.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has said that they are not going to have a committed civil service as the previous Government. May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether it is not the normal practice in a parliamentary system for the political executive to formulate the party programmes into Government programmes, and then the civil servants are expected to follow that programme? But here it has been suggested in the note circulated by the Cabinet Secretary that the civil servants should familiarise themselves with the programmes of the

Janata Party. The political executive may find in its wisdom at a later stage that it may not be possible to implement some of the programmes included in the manifesto. Therefore, I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether he would like to make a distinction between the programme in the manifesto and the programme formulated by the political executive on the basis of the political programme of the party when it comes to power. This is the normal parliamentary practice. What are they actually going to do here?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Well, the hon. Member seems to be in a divided mind, but not the officers.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: What type of an answer is that?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Malaviya.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, the Janata Party consists of many "ghataks"; it is a conglomeration with divergent philosophies. At one end is Mr. Fernandes and at the other end is hon. Charan Singhji. Someone wants to invite multinationals, and someone does not want to invite multinationals. Somebody wants to stop the growth of big industries; others want big industries. Some are for "realisation". There are different approaches, it is very clear—without casting any reflection on any member of the Janata Government. May I know what is the political philosophy of the Janata Government? In the question there is the term "political philosophy". I shall be deeply obliged if the honourable, respected Prime Minister gives us some knowledge about the political philosophy of the Janata Government.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Sir, I do not claim the capacity of convincing my hon. friend who refuses to be convinced. And I am not qualified to be his professor or teacher. Therefore, I cannot reply to this.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I think a couple of months ago, in the last session, the Minister of Finance stated in this House that the Government was committed to de-politicising the banking system in this country.

That is, the Government was committed to seeing that no political opinion of any kind was brought to bear on any decision as far as hi* Ministry was concerned. Now, if this is the statement made, I would like to know whether it is not a contradiction of this circular which has been issued to the officers that they must familiarise themselves with the political philosophy, the manifesto and everything else of the Janata Party, I have no objection to it. But I would like the Prime Minister please to enlighten us on how there could be such contradiction between the circular and the statement of the Minister in this House.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The hon. ourable Member may see contradictions where there is none. Of course, there is a very subtle use of intelligence. I can say that. We do not want politicising of anything. And banks are not to be used for political purposes. That is mentioned in the manifesto itself. That does not require to be said anywhere else.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY: This is again another contradiction.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: **Those** who are always full of contradictions; what else will they see in others? **One** reflects one's contradictions when one does like that. That is not the right thing. Let it be properly understood. There is no question of introducing any politics in this matter at all. The economic programmes are there in the manifesto, and that is what they are concerned with, that is what officers have to familiarise themselves with. That does not mean that they will not be able to offer comments against them when the proposals come. We

invite them, and we have instructed them that that is what they should do.

•215. [*The questioner (Shri Gurudev Gupta) was absent. For answer vide cols. 34 infra*]

Production of braille wrist watches by H.M.T.

•216. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-
BULLAH:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHRO-
TRA:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-
DIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that H.M.T. has recently started manufacturing braille wrist watches;

(b) if so, what is the number of such watches manufactured and sold so far; and

(c) what is the market price of each variety of such watches?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) HMT have so far assembled 1000 braille watches from imported components and sold 700. Manufacture of 5000 braille watches, based on indigenous components, has been planned for 1978-79.

(c) The watch is priced at Rs. 165 - plus excise duty and local taxes. Sir, I have a watch here and honourable Members may have a look at it.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Hamida Habibullah.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-
LAH: I believe India is among the five or six countries in the world making braille watches for the blind. The watches were expected to be ready for sale in April 1977. I suppose that has already happened. I would like to know what the annual demand of these Braille watches in the country is, what the total production per year is and what the prospects are for export of these watches. I would also like to know of what price they are, because these are needed by a community that is not so well off.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It seems the honourable Member did not hear my reply to the question. I said that we have produced in the current year a thousand watches of which we have sold 700. Our plans are to produce 5000 watches in the next year. We are one of the six countries in the world producing braille watches, the other countries being the United States, Japan, Switzerland, Germany and France. So far as the demand projection in India and abroad is concerned, we believe that there is adequate market for these watches and that is why we are going in for 5000 watches during the next year. As far as the price is concerned, as I said earlier, it is Rs. 165.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Sir, the honourable Minister said that if Members wanted, they could have a look at the watch, that he would show it to the Members. I would like to know whether he is going to make a present of this watch to the Members.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I do not think there is any Member in this House who will need a braille watch and I hope it will not be necessary for any Member to demand a Braille watch.

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI: No party man will require this watch.