

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 19th December, 1974/
29th Aagrahayana, 1896 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock.

[MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

*754. [The questioner (Shri Banarsi Das) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 34-35 infra.]

Films taken by Soviet T.V. in Bihar Vidhan Sabha

*755. SHRI M. KADERSHAH:†
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the examination of the films of a recent sitting of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha taken by the Soviet T.V.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether any portion of the film has been seized and confiscated by Government;

(c) whether Government have enquired as to how the Soviet Cameraman entered the Vidhan Sabha and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Soviet Authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One shot of the Bihar Assembly sitting in the film which was surrendered by Soviet authorities been deleted and the remaining film

returned to Chief of Bureau of the Soviet Radio and T.V. team.

(c) A detailed statement on this subject was made by M.I.B. in the Sabha on December 5. A copy of the statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) In view of (b) above, no further action is considered necessary.

Statement

Statement made by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 1974, re. Soviet T.V. Cameraman in Bihar Vidhan Sabha

The Chief of Bureau of the Soviet Radio and Television, who is accredited to the Government of India, made a request to the Press Information Bureau on the 2nd December, 1974 for facilities to take some shots of the Bihar Legislative Assembly as one of the sequences of his film on Bihar. He made it clear that he did not want any shots of the proceedings of the House. This request was transmitted to the appropriate authority in the Secretariat of the Bihar Assembly for such action as might be deemed fit and proper, that Secretariat being the only authority for deciding this matter. It appears from the newspaper reports that the Television Team was allowed to take some shots, but not in the Assembly Chamber.

We have issued instructions for the detention of the film. The film will be allowed to go out of the country only if we are satisfied that it does not contain anything objectionable or against the Parliamentary traditions and practices of the Bihar Assembly.

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: The statement given by the Minister is

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. Kadershah.

evasive. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting has stated in this House on December 5 that no Government permission was issued to the Soviet T.V. Team, but the Speaker of the Bihar Assembly is stated to have remarked that permission was sought only from the Central Government. I do not know which statement is true, that of the Minister or that of the Speaker of the Bihar Assembly. So, in order to establish the truth, will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting place the verbatim report of the proceedings of the Bihar Assembly on the Table of the House?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: As I said earlier on the 5th December, when the issue was raised, the sovereignty of the Assembly is complete and the Speaker is sovereign in his own right and in his own premises. The question of the Government of India issuing instructions to the Speaker does not arise. Therefore, it would be very wrong to say that the Government of India could or can issue instructions to the Speaker to do this or that.

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: The Speaker has clearly stated that permission was given only by the Centre and not by him. I want to know the truth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speaker might have done it, but it is up to the Assembly members and all that. What can the Government of India do?

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Why was the Bihar Assembly selected as the venue by the Soviet TV team and may I know whether the Soviet team has given any reason for taking snap shots of the Bihar Assembly? If so, what are the reasons?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: This is something which it is very difficult

for me to reply. I think it should be discussed in the Bihar Assembly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not reply to it. It is not possible, but he said some assistance has been given to them.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Assistance is given to every accredited correspondent, whether he is an Indian correspondent or a foreign correspondent. In this case we only forwarded their request to the proper authorities.

श्री रबी राय : चेयरमैन साहेब, श्री गुजराल जानबूझ कर सदन को इस सिलसिले में गुमराह किये हैं। क्या यह सही नहीं है कि जिस दिन ये सोवियत टी० वी० क कमरामैन वहां पहुंचे, तो हाउस में आर्डर होने से पहले हम सब के सामने कार्यवाही होने से पहले वे वहां पहुंच गये थे और उसमें साफ यह है—इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में यह कहा गया है : विद दि परमिशन आफ दि गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया, और इसका मतलब यह है कि स्पीकर साहब को इस के बारे में मालूम नहीं था। यह सोवियत टी० वी० टीम हिन्दुस्तान को सरकार और गुजराल साहब के आर्डर से पटना गई, यह बात साफ है क्योंकि बिहार के जो स्पीकर श्री हरि नाथ मिश्र हैं उन्होंने यह कहा है कि भारत सरकार ने इसको भेजा है और उन्होंने इसके बारे में कोई परमिशन नहीं दी थी।

असल चीज यह है कि हाउस के बैठने से पहले ही सोवियत टी० वी० टीम ने सदन के भीतर की तस्वीर ले ली थी और अब सवाल यह उठता है कि इस तस्वीर को लेने के लिए उन्होंने किस की परमिशन ली थी ?

दूसरा सवाल यह है और मैं इस बारे में आपका संरक्षण चाहता हूँ कि सोवियत नेता श्री ब्रेजनेव जब भारत के दौरे पर भारत आये—थे तो उन्होंने जानबूझ कर यह बात कही कि हिन्दुस्तान में किसी विरोधी दल की जरूरत नहीं है। पंजाब के मुख्य मंत्री और उड़ीसा

के मुख्य मंत्री ने भी यह कहा है कि ग्राल इंडिया रेडियो को मास्को रेडियो के पैटर्न पर बनाया जायेगा। ब्रेजनेव ने जो इस तरह की बात कही है उस के बारे में भारत सरकार को मालूम है और उसने इस बारे में अभी तक कोई खंडन नहीं किया है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने जान-बूझकर और गुजराल साहब ने अपने आर्डर पर इस टी० वी० टीम को वहाँ पर भेजा। मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में पूरा स्पष्टीकरण दें कि बिहार विधान सभा शुरू होने से पहिले और वहाँ के स्पीकर श्री हरि नाथ मिश्र के आने से पहिले ही क्या इस टी० वी० टीम ने सदन के भीतर की तस्वीर नहीं ले ली थी? तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में सारी जानकारी दें और इस सम्बन्ध में जितने भी तथ्य हैं, वह सदन और हिन्दुस्तान की जनता के सामने रखें? क्या वे इस सिलसिले में एक पार्लियामेंटरी प्रोब करने के लिए तैयार हैं। मैं इन सवालों का जवाब मंत्री जी से चाहता हूँ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, Mr. Rabi Ray, the honourable Member of this House in addition to being an eloquent speaker, is also a very experienced parliamentarian. I was under the impression that up till now he knows fully well that without the Speaker's permission nobody can enter the premises of the Assembly. Therefore, whether the question of the Government of India or any individual intervening arises or not is known to him. But, since he likes to be irrelevant, I cannot prevent him.

Then, Sir, he has raised another question and he has tried to make allegations. I am saying that he has

tried to "make allegations". He has tried to bring in the Soviet Union, Mr. Brezhnev, the CPI, etc., which I strongly contradict and I say that it is totally a false allegation.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: Why?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The main point here, Sir, is that ours is an open society and the international media like the newspapers, TV, radio etc. function in this country and they cover whatever they think is of topical interest to them and that is the reason why they must have gone to Bihar and they might have thought that that news was of topical interest to them and they might have wanted to have a film on the Bihar situation. When it was brought to our notice—whatever may be the reason for this, because this is within the purview of the powers of the Bihar Assembly and the Speaker and therefore, I would not like to enter into that field—and when we were told that a film could have possibly been taken, we acted immediately and we seized the film. We seized the film and, after seizing it we get it processed. After having got processed, we saw it and after seeing it, we discovered that there was one scene giving the internal view or what you call, the internal filming of the Chamber and we cut it and that is the only thing which we could have done. I think, Sir, Mr. Rabi Ray, in his liberal attitude, should have at least paid me compliments for this.

श्री रवी राय : श्रीमन, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया। मेरा यह सवालसे था कि बिहार विधान सभा शुरू होने से पहिले ही इस टी० वी० टीम ने सदन के भीतर की तस्वीर ले ली थी। इसके बारे में आप मंत्री जी से कहें कि वह इस बारे में बनलायें और जानकारी दें। यह मेरा एक सीधा सवाल है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: As regards the Assembly, it is Speaker who is to decide everything.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Yes, that is it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister ...

श्री रबी राय : यह बात अबबारों में आ चुकी है कि बिहार विधान सभा शुरू होने से पहिले ही तस्वीर ली जा चुकी थी। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह की जो कार्यवाही हुई, वह किस के आर्डर से हुई? इका कोई जबाब मंत्री जी की ओर से नहीं आया है?

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है और वह यह है कि जब मार्शल यह कहता है कि आप आ रहे हैं, तो हम खड़े हो कर आपका अभिनन्दन करते हैं और उसके बाद सदन की कार्यवाही शुरू हो जाती है। लेकिन इसके पहिले ही सदन यहां सदन में आ कर बैठ जाते हैं और अब आप बैठ जाते हैं तो फिर सदन सुचारु रूप से चालू माना जाता है। मान लीजिए आप स्पीकर हैं और आप के आने के पूर्व ही उन्होंने टेलीविजन द्वारा सारी तस्वीर ले ली थी। यह प्रश्न है और इसका उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी किया रहे हैं। जब तक स्पीकर नहीं आया था तब तक उन्होंने अपना काम पूरा कर लिया था।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : हुजूर, राजनारायण जी कभी-कभी हमको यह इम्पेशन देते हैं कि वे अक्लमन्द नहीं हैं। लेकिन मैं यह बात नहीं मानता हूँ क्योंकि मैं यह मानकर चलता हूँ कि उनको यह मालूम है कि स्पीकर की या आगकी सोवरेनिटी हाउस के अन्दर उस वक्त शुरू नहीं होती है जब कि आप कूर्मी में आ कर बैठ जाते हैं बल्कि उसके पहिले से ही शुरू हो जाती है। अगर श्री राज-

नारायण को यह बात इतने वर्षों के बाद भी समझ में नहीं आई है, तो किसी वक्त आप चैम्बर में बुलाकर समझा दीजिए।

श्री राजनारायण : जबाब फिर गोल हो गया।

SHRI RABI RAY: He has also not replied to your satisfaction.

श्री राजनारायण : देखिये, मेन चीज छिपाई जा रही है जबकि हरि नाथ ने, स्पीकर से यह साफ कह दिया कि यह काम केन्द्र के निर्देशन पर किया गया।

SHRI V. B. RAJU: The Question Hour cannot be a discussion hour.

श्री रवी राय : राजू साहब, स्पष्टीकरण मांगा जाता है।

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Chief of the Bureau of Public Radio and Television, whose application was sent to the hon. Speaker of the Bihar Assembly—and who took the decision naturally—approached the Government of India for such a facility in any other State, and whether any other foreign televisions and radios have approached them for taking films in Bihar or in any other State recently?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: In my original statement on the 5th of December, I had clarified that in the Press Information Bureau we have an officer for providing facilities to the foreign media working in the country, and also for the Indian media. From time to time we do receive requests for giving facilities or help in facilitating their function. I cannot possibly reply just now as to how many have applied. But I think the list would be very long. Wherever topicality and news are possible, that media has to go.

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : श्रीमान, जो टेलीविजन की टीम रश्या की बिहार विधान सभा में गई थी उसके पास कई कैमरे थे। मेरी सूचना यह है कि एक-दो कैमरों को स्पीकर के स्टाफ ने ले लिया और उसके बाद उन कैमरों को लौटा दिया गया। लौटा देने के क्रम में कई और कैमरों की रील, जिनके द्वारा फिल्म ली गई थी, हटा ली गई। तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रीलें हटा ली गईं उसके लिए सरकार क्या करने जा रही है। मुझे यह पता है कि वह फिल्म जिसमें वहाँ के कई शाट्स लिए गए हैं वह सोवियत टेलीविजन टीम ने सरकार के सामने नहीं रखी। इसके लिए सरकार क्या करने जा रही है ?

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : महापति जी, मुझे मालूम नहीं आप ने कभी टेलीविजन का कैमरा देखा है—मेरा मतलब आनरेबिल मेम्बर से है। टी० वी० की फिल्म एक ही कैमरे से बनती है। ऐसा कोई टी० वी का सिस्टम नहीं होता कि 5—10 कैमरों से फिल्म एक वार में एक जगह की ली जाती हो। वहाँ के स्पीकर ने कितने कैमरे लिए,—उस बहस में मैं नहीं जाना चाहता, वह मेरा दायरा नहीं है। जहाँ तक हमारा ताल्लुक है, जिस वक्त हमारे नोटिस में यह बात आई कि वहाँ की फिल्म ली गई है हमने फिल्म को ज्वन किया, डेवलप किया और जो हिस्सा काबिने-एतराज था उस को काट दिया।

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : सर, मेरा कहना यह है कि वहाँ के मेम्बरों ने मुझे बताया कि वहाँ दूसरे कैमरा सैटस भी थे, टेलीविजन के न रहे हों। दूसरे कैमरों से जो फोटोग्राफ लिए गए क्या उनको भी स्टडी किया गया, उनको सील किया गया या नहीं; अगर नहीं तो क्यों ?

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : जिस कैमरे से असेम्बली में फिल्म ली गई उस फिल्म पर हमने कब्जा किया, उसको डेवलप किया, उसमें जो काबिले एतराज हिस्सा था वह हमने काट दिया। अब एक आदमी के पास...

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : किन्तु घंटे के वाद वह फिल्म निकाली गई ?

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : बदकिस्मती यह है कि इनको मालूम नहीं कि किस तरह टी० वी० का कैमरा चलता है। पहले फिल्म कच्ची होती है, फिर उसको पक्का किया जाता है, डेवलप किया जाता है। जब हमने फिल्म पर कब्जा किया तो वह डेवलप नहीं थी। उसको हमने खुद डेवलप किया और डेवलप करके वह हिस्सा काट दिया।

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: It is not so simple as the hon. Minister has tried to put it. The very request of the Soviet Bureau of Radio and Television is sinister. Of all the places they have chosen Bihar. Why should they choose Bihar? Not because Bihar is poverty-stricken, but simply because there is a movement against the Government, and they want to take pictures in Bihar and also show the proceedings of the Assembly in order to blacken the name of Opposition parties. This is a direct interference in the internal affairs of India. I wonder how such an intelligent Minister like Mr. Gujaral gave permission or the Speaker of the Assembly, who belongs to his party, gave permission to this sort of most heinous attempt of the Soviet Bureau of Radio and Television. Next, Sir, some years ago there was another cameraman by the name Louis Malle from France who was taking pictures on behalf of BBC

about India. And for the information of the House that was very well received outside India and as a result, India had earned goodwill abroad. But the same Government of India asked him to leave the country and confiscated his film. Now when they could treat Louis Malle in this manner, how could they allow Soviet Bureau to go around the country scot-free?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I agree with my honourable friend that the issue is very simple but it should not be dealt with in the style of a simpleton. The issue is basic. There is something happening in Bihar and various media, not only Indian but foreign media also have been going and filming and broadcasting about what looked to them to be news. Therefore, it is not as if for the first time and the only time this Soviet team was going there. Other international teams have also visited Bihar. The issue basically was simply one about the Bihar Assembly which I have clarified.

So far as Louis Malle's issue that he has raised is concerned, which is totally irrelevant but since he is mixing up this issue, I may say that Louis Malle took out the film and when the films were projected, objections were raised because they were putting out the image of India in a bad way and in a style which neither Mr. Mariswamy nor I liked.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: On a point of order, Sir. He has said I have put the question like a simpleton. Is it permissible? Nobody said it; I would like to know what he said.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: He can see the proceedings. I have not said that he is a simpleton. I have not said, Sir... (*Interruptions*).

I am very careful. Sir, the record is there. I have said and I repeat it that the issue is simple but it should not be dealt with in a simpleton way. It is not a reflection on him.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: It is a reflection on the Member who put it. (*Interruptions*). On a point of order, Sir, I seek your protection. I can also reply the same way. He cannot answer the question in that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will see the record.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: You please give a ruling.

(*Interruptions by Shri Rajnarain*)

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: You must give the ruling, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have told the hon. Members not to argue for others. Mr. Rajnarain, you should not interfere. He is quite capable. You do not argue for him. I will look into the records and then say.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Please tell me now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Here and now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I will have to look into the facts.

श्री राजनारायण : यह ईशू सदन का है एक व्यक्ति का नहीं है । किसी को कह देंगे कि टेलीविजन का कैमरा नहीं देखा है, किसी को कुछ कह देंगे...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it and then I will decide.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: By the time you look into it, the proceedings will go. You must give the ruling here and now. That is procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: On a point of order raised the ruling is given immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because I will have to look into it and then I will decide. How can you insist? I will look into the records and I will see whether it is correct or not and then give my ruling. How can you say "today and immediately"? I can reserve it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, the Soviet T.V. is the mouthpiece of the Soviet Government and even a simpleton knows that. So, Sir, in view of that ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are also unnecessarily interrupting.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, in view of the fact that the Soviet T.V., radio, press has been constantly maligning Jayprakash Narayan and the Opposition parties, is it not a fact that giving of permission to the Soviet T.V. to go as far as Bihar and also having left the matter at the discretion of the State Government, allowing the Soviet TV men so that they could travel in CD cars—as Mr. Mariswamy said in another case—that the image of India was being distorted. I think the image of India is being distorted here. The object is to create an image of Joan of Arc in the country. Is it a fact, therefore, that the Government is in collusion with the Soviet Government to deliberately distort the image of the Opposition parties in the international Press?

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no image.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: My friend knows fully well that for the media from any country which is accredited to India, it does not need any permission to travel in India, and therefore neither the permission to go to Bihar was sought nor given.

The only thing was that they wanted some facilities to be made available for filming of the Legislative Assembly, which request was simply forwarded, as I said. The issue basically, therefore, is not whether any media could go to Bihar and the permission was given. Secondly, my hon'ble friend is rightly worried about the image of India and I think he should be more careful when he talks about it because people who are destroying the image sit with him.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This is not the answer to my question. Mr. Chairman, I seek your indulgence. This is not the answer to my question. My question was very specific. He says that for the BBC, they took action. What action they took? They threw the BBC out. Very good. The image of India was being distorted and action had to be taken. But here also the image of India is being distorted, and not only the Soviet TV and their cameramen moved around, the Soviet Embassy officials had complete freedom, they had the right to take films and distort the image. Why are you making this distinction? Is it because the Government is in collusion with the Soviet Union?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: On this question of image of India, it is a part of the image of India. I take a great deal of pride in the image of India because it is great.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: So do I.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am glad you do. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Why do you make any charge? What do you mean by that? Do you want me to create an image for

the Prime Minister? Do you think that is the only image?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Thank you. The image.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Would you please ask her to repeat what she said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I would like to know what she said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you not sitting?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I do not like the charge. What can't the Prime Minister repeat what she said? (*Interruptions*). I am not trying to build up the image of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's image is being watched. It cannot be bigger than what she is. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, the image of India in which we all in this House and in this country take pride is the image of a democratic country, where people express their wish through ballot boxes. The image of India is being spoiled by those who have lost faith in the ballot box, and the image is being spoiled by those who want to avenge their defeat in the ballot box through these types of movements they are trying to launch. The image of India is being destroyed by those who in RSS want to have dictatorship in India and do not want to have democracy in India. (*Interruptions*).

श्री राजनारायण : इन्होंने वैंलेट वाक्सेज को तुड़वाया है, वैंलेट पेपर विदेशों से छपवाए हैं। ये प्राइम मिनिस्टर जनतंत्र विरोधी हैं। ये देश में तानाशाही लाना चाहती है। ये रूस की एजेंट हैं

(*Interruption*)

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. N. Dhulap.

SHRI RABI RAY: Is the country's image synonymous with the Government's image? (*Interruptions*).

श्री राजनारायण : ये किराये के, भाड़े के टट्टू लाती हैं।

श्री रबी राय : राष्ट्र और सरकार दौनो अलग चीज हैं।

Maharashtra-Karnataka Boundary Dispute

*756. SHRI K. N. DHULAP:

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently had discussions with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka for an immediate solution of the boundary dispute between the two States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps the Central Government propose to take for an early solution of the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Efforts in trying to find an equitable solution which would command maximum acceptability are proceeding. In the interest of emergence of a satisfactory solution it would not be desirable to make any details public at this stage.

SHRI R. N. DHULAP: Sir, it is a very vexed problem and it has been hanging fire for more than 18 years. People have expressed their views and sentiments through peaceful means and sometimes violently also. Recently, the Karnataka Gov-