

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 24th July, 1974/the
2nd Sravana, 1896 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conviction of Indian Test Cricketer Shri Sudhir Naik for shop-lifting

- *61. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD :
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :
DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : †

Will the Minister of EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press report of 27th June, 1974 from London to the effect that Shri Sudhir Naik, Indian Test Cricketer was convicted and fined £ 25 for shoplifting in London ;

(b) whether any enquiry was made into the incident ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DE-
PARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI
ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir,
Information has reached Government that
Shri Sudhir Naik, Indian Test Cricketer
was convicted and fined for shop lifting in
London. A detailed report on the incident
has been called for from Board of Control
for Cricket and this is awaited.

† The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Nabin Chandra
Buragohain.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Sir, two incidents took place while the Indian cricketers were in England. The first incident is that one of the test cricketers, Shri Sudhir Naik, was convicted and fined for shop lifting. Over the second incident the whole of India is very much agitated. These cricketers were abnormally late to a tea party . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, kindly put your question.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : . . . given by the Indian High Commissioner to which some dignitaries were invited. They were present . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has nothing to do with this question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He wants to know whether they were late because they went shop-lifting.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : The behaviour and manners shown by the Indian cricketers have adversely reflected on our national character abroad. To meet this situation may I ask the hon Minister to furnish a list of instructions containing caution and warning to every member of a team going abroad and representing India ?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : The hon. Member has raised two questions. One is regarding the incident which took place in the Indian High Commission. The second is regarding shop lifting. Regarding the incident relating to the reception given by the Indian High Commissioner, there is a separate question, No. 79. Here I will confine myself to the second question, viz the shop lifting affair. We have not received a detailed report from the Board and we are waiting for that. They will arrive in India by about the 26th of this month. After getting a report from the Board, we will be able to say something about the whole incident. Regarding instructions and directions, as you know, the

Board of Control for Cricket is an autonomous body. After getting the report from the Board we shall certainly examine the matter.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : May I know whether the Minister is aware that these incidents got wide publicity in all the important foreign papers and, if so, which are the important papers in which these incidents got publicity?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Sir, as I have said, we have not received a detailed report. But the Indian High Commission in a Telex message has confirmed this news. I will read out the Telex message:—

“A theft incident regarding the Indian cricketers was carried in the *Evening News* and *Evening Standard* of June 27. *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Guardian* of June 28 also carried identical reports. The text of *Evening News* is as follows:—

Sudhir Naik, a member of the Indian touring cricket team was fined £ 25 with £ 20 costs yesterday for shop lifting.

Naik, aged 29, admitted at Marlborough Street Court, London, stealing 4 pairs of socks worth £ 1.20 from Mark and Spencer in Oxford Street. When stopped, he had more than £256 in his pocket.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, we may pass on to the next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, Sir. Why should we pass on to the next question? What is the reason? What has happened? We have not asked questions. Even you have not allowed the second supplementary. Why should we pass on to the next? We should pursue this matter. It is a serious matter. We have reports. He has read something. We read foreign papers. We should be allowed to ask questions. There should be no ‘hush-hush’.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no ‘hush-hush’. But he has given details. If the House wants. . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We have not got all the details. Details have been suppressed. It is a question of suppression for political purposes or for other reasons, for anybody. And you are not allowing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am allowing it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know who selects the team and whether it is not a fact that there is a lot of politics and partisan attitude adopted by the persons responsible for the selection of the team in the Cricket Association, whether third-rate persons were sent in this cricket team and whether the background and antecedents of Mr. Sudhir Naik were ascertained before he was sent as one of the players in this team which is supposed to represent our country abroad?

SHRI B. C. MAHANTI : I went to this Indian Cricket team in the United Kingdom. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. I have not called you.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : As I have said, all organisations of sports are autonomous bodies. And as far as the question of the hon. Member is concerned, who asked who has selected this team, I will say that this selection is done entirely by the Board of Control, and the Government has no authority regarding its selection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mahanti, if you want to put a question, I will allow you. But if you want to give any explanation, I will not allow you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, the report appeared not only in the British Press about this shop lifting and conviction, but also in the Indian Press. And it has become—it appears from the newspapers that I got—an almost international scandal.

Now, Sir, I am not concerned with this development here. I should like to know whether the Indian High Commissioner himself or some authority on his behalf made any proper investigation from Mr. Sudhir Naik and otherwise also, to find out whether the contention, of Mr. Sudhir Naik that he only forgot to pay the money when he had £ 200 with him is correct. If it is correct, then what step the Government of India authorities or the Indian High Commission took in order to set it aside, because conviction has taken place. And has any appeal been filed in that regard? It has been said, as you know, that they are caught like that. I should like to know why, after one month, the Government is not in a position to tell the House as to what are their findings on the basis of their independent inquiry.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : No, no. He was convicted in a court of law because he admitted guilt.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Just a minute. I want to know—he is alleged to have said that he forgot to pay the money, and the suggestion is that he had £ 200 with him and he did not intend to steal. Shop-lifters are generally wives of very rich people and multi-millionaires, and rich people develop all habits, not only of shop-lifting but various other vices also. A sum of £ 200 in his pocket by itself does not mean anything. I should like to know why the Government is sitting on it. Now we find that the Indian High Commissioner is very keen on getting an apology from the cricket team and publicising it in the British press that the Indian cricket team has apologised to him, why at the same time the same High Commissioner, Shri B. K. Nehru, a superannuated man, has not given direction yet to deal with this matter in such a manner as would conform to the national interest setting the record straight instead of apologising on behalf of the nation for having got such a man? Why Mr. Sudhir Naik has not been asked to return to the country immediately? His passport is an Indian passport. He

could also be asked by the High Commissioner that he should go back to his country. Why all these steps were not taken?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : It is a strange suggestion from the hon'ble Member suggesting that the passport should be impounded. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. I have not said that the passport should be impounded. The hon'ble Minister is a very knowledgeable, learned man. I have not said that the passport should be impounded. Suppose I go abroad and I am convicted of a crime, what is wrong if the High Commissioner, on the advice of the Government of India, asks me to return to my country? This is the question. Impounding should be considered later on.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : We have asked for a very detailed report from the High Commissioner of India. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is the recommendation?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : . . . and as soon as we receive the letter . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am not blaming you. On a point of order. I am not blaming Mr. Nurul Hasan. Why should he take it upon himself? I ask why is it that the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. B. K. Nehru, ex-Ambassador to the United States of America, who is always favoured by this Government—I do not know how long he will enjoy this privilege . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot allow this debate. You cannot go on debating like this. There are other Members also who want to put their supplementaries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : "Other Members" is not the reason. You can say you will not allow me. You say that. That is enough. Your High Commissioner is not taken to task for not promptly sending the report. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why should it not be answered?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not said that it should not be answered.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am sorry sometimes I misinterpret you.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: We have asked for the report both from the High Commission and the Board of Control of Cricket in India. The President and Secretary, both, of the Board of Control, were in England and they are due back on the 26th July.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why did they go there?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: They had gone there to attend a meeting. We are awaiting all these reports and if after examination of these reports any further action is needed we will do our best to take that action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Pratibha Singh. Last question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why last?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have already taken 15 minutes over it.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: May I know if the Government has satisfied itself whether it is correct that this cricketer had £ 200 in his pocket but he could not pay the price of the stocks worth £.25 and was convicted for shop-lifting? May I know whether the Government has tried to verify if this particular shop has not been maligning good intellectual Indians on similar accounts in the past?

I would like to know whether the Government has verified it or the Government has not been able to get all the information and it is just trying to say, yes, this cricketer was involved, or something or the other. These cricketers who go to other countries are our prestige and we have to

take this matter very seriously. So, I would like to know whether some of the shops in London have not been trying to malign people from India like this.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: That is the reason why we have asked for a report both from the Board of Control for Cricket as well as from the High Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Sir, right from the beginning I have been asking for your permission to put a supplementary and I have not been called. You have been very unfair to me. When the other Member stood up, you asked him if he wanted to put a question. But right from the beginning I have been asking and standing. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: He had something to do with the matter.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: I have got everything to do with the matter. How do you know that I have not got anything to do with sports?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was connected with this team. We cannot take more than 16 minutes on this. I have called the next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir, this is very wrong. I very much regret that even before the supplementary after the first question had been asked, you said, "Let me pass on to the next question". Obviously you had come to the conclusion, even before the question had been put, that the question should not be pursued. (*Interruption*). We want to have the matter clarified.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You took more time than anybody else.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is all right. I know that I get time. Others also get time. But even before the first supplementaries were over, you said, "I pass on to the next question". You have never

said during the last so many years this kind of thing. Let there be a discussion. You agree to a discussion.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Let there be a half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The matter should be clarified in the national interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House wants, I am prepared to go on with the first question for the rest of the hour.

HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Denial of increase in D.A. to the teachers of Government aided schools in New Delhi/Delhi

*62. **SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY †**

SHRI N. G. GORAY :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the teachers in the Government aided schools in New Delhi/Delhi have been denied increased dearness allowance since August, 1973; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV) : (a) and (b) : Orders have since been issued by Delhi Administration to all Government aided schools in Delhi/New Delhi to make payment of dearness allowance, on provisional basis, to all the teachers employed in those schools, from 1st May, 1973 to those drawing pay upto Rs. 900/-, and from 1st August, 1973 to those drawing pay above Rs. 900/-. The payment arrears of D.A. from the due dates is in the process of being made.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : I would like to know whether dearness allowance has been paid to the teachers of these aided schools in New Delhi and Delhi as has been paid to other employees of the Delhi Administration and the employees of the Central Government. Also I would like to know whether, when these schools are drawing grants three months in advance, they are paying salaries before the last two working days of the month. What action has been taken in this regard ?

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Sir, I am not aware of what the Delhi Administration has done in the case of other categories of employees. But so far as school teachers are concerned, I can inform the hon. Member that the orders regarding this were issued only on 22-6-1974. So the payment of dearness allowance to the teachers could not have been made earlier. It is in the process of being made now.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : I would like to know whether these schools are disbursing the salaries in full. I would also like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that they are taking receipts for the full amount but the money that is paid to the teachers is sometimes 50 per cent and sometimes 60 per cent, and this is being done in many of the private schools and colleges in Mysore and other States.

SHRI D. P. YADAV : The question is about dearness allowance. I seek your protection, Sir, as to whether I should give a reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, the question is about the dearness allowance...

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : It is connected, Sir, with the salaries of the teachers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not expand this question.