

managed if there are five working days in a week with the result that power consumption in the running of offices can be very much saved ? And this being the prime consideration as regards the power crisis, I think it is a very laudable proposal. Since the consideration, as the Minister says, is that the working hours should not be reduced, the same working hours can be managed with five working days in a week and in many countries of the world this is being done. Why can't we do it ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, these are exactly the considerations in the context of oil problem to save energy and fuel. But, Sir, the reaction of the staff side members, who were informally consulted, was that, "you can introduce 5-days week but do not increase the working hours." This would be one of the difficulties. And there is also a demand from the staff side which has been referred by the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery for arbitration that even in the Government industrial establishments which are at present working from anything like 44 to 48 hours a week the working hours should also be reduced to 36 or so hours as in offices. So, the more we go into the whole thing, we have a lot of more difficulties. And from the point of view of the staff side also, as I have stated earlier, it is difficult to introduce that.

SHRI NAND KIKSHORE BHATT : Sir, we are passing through a very unprecedented, difficult economic situation. The hon. Prime Minister has been very often exhorting the workers that we will have to increase the production. And we have also the problem of unemployment. Sir, by introduction of 5-day working, it should be possible to give more employment to the people and at the same time increase the production. I very well appreciate the point raised by the hon. Minister that they have practical difficulties. Sir, wherever possible, by entering into agreements with the workers, will the hon. Minister consider the ways and means for introduction of 5-day working week at least in Government run industrial establishments? And we can give more employment to the people who are in need of employment and at the same time increase the production. A method can be evolved after entering into agreements with the workers wherever it is possible. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten me on this point.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, as you are aware the main reason for this suggestion was that there may be a saving and that simultaneously we might take advantage of the situation to have better efficiency. Both aspects go together. But, unfortunately, we have found that whenever such a step is taken, the tendency

is for the workload also to go down. That would be unfortunate. But if any agreement can be entered into with any section, we would be certainly willing to consider it.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the reports regarding the fear of increase in birth rate during the two holidays and whether this is going to affect the birth rate ? Are you going to consult the Health Ministry before taking any decision in the matter.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, such a fall-out from any scheme is possible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What does the fall-out mean in this case?

AN HON. MEMBER : He is not aware.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : Sir, Government is aware that thousands of hours of work have been lost during the last few months in over 50 public sector enterprises on account of strikes. Government has got a very powerful Press Information Bureau at its command. May I know why don't they advertise through this media the number of man hours lost on account of strikes in order to focus public attention?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, Sir, it is true and rather unfortunate that quite a good deal of hours are lost on account of strikes. But, same is the position about lock-outs also. So, both the problems have to be tackled.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know, what was the footnote to that answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called next question.

PLOT TO CREATE COMMUNAL TENSION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*180. SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI
LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI
SUNDAR MANI PATEL: SHRI
CHANDRAMOULI JAG-

ARLAMUDI : SHRI DEBANANDA

AMAT: Will the Minister of HOME

AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Police recently unearthed a plot to create communal tension in various parts of the State through acts calculated to offend the religious sentiments of the people;

(b) The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.

(b) whether the Central Government have received a report in this regard from the State Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to curb such anti-national activities in that State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) to (c) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have been maintaining continuous vigilance to prevent anti-social elements from creating communal tension in the State. One case has been registered by Srinagar Police for attempt to disturb communal peace and harmony and five persons have been arrested in this connection.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government has any information on the point whether any foreign hand lies behind such plots and such disturbances and if so, whether Government has taken any action against such foreign elements in this particular context?

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT : Sir, originally there was some suspicion of there being a plot or something of that kind. I accept that this may not be an act of some agent provocateur because during the period of three weeks in the first instance and again in February the same kind of provocative acts tried to evoke the sentiments of both the communities. But, there is no evidence of any such plot being there.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir gave a statement that this was not the work of one man and thereby he implied that a deep-seated conspiracy or a very deep-seated plot was behind such disturbances. I would like to know what was the final outcome of the investigations carried out by the State or the Central Government.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT : Sir, five persons have been arrested and interrogation is going on. There was more than one person who did this because leaves of the holy books etc. were thrown up with a very deliberate intention of creating trouble. It is to the credit of the Jammu and Kashmir Government that they took very prompt preventive action and prevented any untoward incident happening. But, simply by saying that more than one person was involved in these incidents does not mean that we can imply or infer any wild conclusions.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, may I know if the hon. Minister is aware that not only in Jammu & Kashmir but in some other States also there are some agencies which are working to create communal tension, as, for example, in Gujarat, Uttar

Pradesh and in many other places. Recently reports have come from Gujarat that in one area Muslims had been persecuted and threatened. Is the Government aware of such representations having been made to the authorities? If so, what action has been taken? I would like to know whether any instructions have been given to the State Government to firmly put down this kind of communal propaganda and tension-mongering among the communities.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT : Sir, we have no particular information about the incident referred to by the hon. Member in Gujarat. So far as U.P. and other States are concerned, not only the Central Government but all the State Governments have been taking firmly definite steps to ensure preventive action and I am in a position to say that there is a certain amount of control and the number of incidents is on the decline. So far as Gujarat is concerned, Sir, we shall make inquiries and we will take definite, proper and firm action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question does not relate to Gujarat.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The question of tension relates to Gujarat. Do not take such a conservative view of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Yes, Mr. Mathur. Last question.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न राज्यों को इस प्रकार के कोई निर्देश दिए हैं कि अमुक अमुक कारण को विभिन्न सम्प्रदायों के अंदर दुर्भावनाएं फैलाने वाला मानना चाहिए, और इस नाते जम्मू और कश्मीर के उस कार्य को, जिसमें बम्बई के इलस्ट्रेटेड वीकली के अंदर जम्मू के पत्रकार और एक संसद् सदस्य ने जो लेख लिखा था उस लेख को भी जम्मू और कश्मीर की सरकार ने विभिन्न सम्प्रदायों के अंदर तनाव पैदा करने वाला मान कर इलस्ट्रेटेड वीकली जैसे पत्र पर प्रतिबंध लगाया, उसके कारण से क्या पत्रकारिता के ऊपर भी एक प्रकार का आघात पहुंचा, और जो एक स्वतन्त्र अभिव्यक्ति का अपना अधिकार है, उस पर भी आघात पहुंचा, और क्या यह सही है कि इस प्रकार के कारण को भी प्रान्तीय सरकारें अपनी मनमर्जी से साम्प्रदायिकता के कार्यों के बीच में रखती हैं—यह भी एक कारण मानती है, जो विभिन्न सम्प्रदायों में दुर्भावना पैदा करती है। इसलिए क्या सरकार ने कोई गाइड-लाइन

राज्य सरकारों को देने की दृष्टि से कोई ऐक्शन इस बारे में लिया है या नहीं ?

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : श्रीमन्, मैं माननीय सदस्य का विचार पूरा समझ नहीं पा रहा हूँ। हमारा तो यह दृढ़ मत है कि चाहे प्रदेश की सरकार हो चाहे केन्द्र की सरकार हो, कोई राजनैतिक या सामान्य दल या ग्रुप, जो भी ऐसी बात परोक्ष या प्रत्यक्ष रीति से करेंगे जिससे जातीयता का, सांप्रदायिकता का, फिरकापरस्ती का बढ़ावा होता हो, तो उनको हम रोकने के, दबाने के, पक्ष में हैं और मजबूती से इसे करना चाहते हैं। इसमें कोई ऐसी बात श्रीमन्, उन्होंने नहीं कही जिसके कारण हमको आपत्ति करने की आवश्यकता हो।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माधुर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल यह था कि सरकार अपनी मन-मर्जी से इस प्रकार के कदम उठाती है, जो हमको अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतन्त्रता है उस पर आघात करने वाला है। उसको भी उन्होंने सांप्रदायिकता का नाम देकर एक अखबार वाले को तो गिरफ्तार कर लिया लेकिन एक संसद् सदस्य को उन्होंने गिरफ्तार नहीं किया। तो इस प्रकार की संज्ञा देकर कि यह विभिन्न जातियों के अंदर दुर्भावना फैलाने वाला लेख है उन्होंने जो कदम उठाया है इसके बारे में क्या मैं आपसे जान सकता हूँ कि क्या कोई गाइड-लाइन आपने बनाई है या बनाएंगे कि प्रान्तीय सरकारों को इस प्रकार की स्थिति पर इस प्रकार का ऐक्शन लेना चाहिए।

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : श्रीमन्, जो संविधान में अभिव्यक्ति की, भाषण की, लिखने-पढ़ने की स्वतन्त्रता है वह कोई अनरेस्ट्रिक्टेड या वाइल्ड नहीं है। उसके अन्तर्गत नियम हैं, उन नियमों के अन्तर्गत ही मनुष्य अपनी स्वतन्त्र अभिव्यक्ति कर सकता है। इसमें तो श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य को आपत्ति यह है कि एक को पकड़ा, दूसरे को क्यों नहीं

पकड़ा ? यह बात कुछ विचार करने की है, इसमें मैं पता लगा सकता हूँ। कोई कानूनी कारण रहा होगा। मैं इसमें अंतर करने के पक्ष में नहीं हूँ कि अभिव्यक्ति बिना किसी संयम या नियम के हो और जैसे भी जो चाहे किसी प्रकार की अभिव्यक्ति कर सकता है। ऐसा संविधान का मतलब नहीं है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माधुर : मैंने पूछा था कोई गाइड लाइन्स आपकी हैं या नहीं ?

(No reply.)

श्री तोरथ राम अमला : मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहूंगा, यह जो लोग पकड़े गए हैं, और जो अभी तक इन्क्वायरी हुई है, क्या इसमें कुछ पता लगता है कि उन लोगों का किसी पोलिटिकल पार्टी से संबंध है, और अगर है तो किस पार्टी से ?

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : श्रीमन्, यह कहना संभव नहीं है। संभव यह अधिक है कि कोई एजेंट प्रोबोकेटर हों जो जान-बूझ कर भड़काना चाहते हों। अभी यह जो आखिरी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना हुई है, कृत्य हुआ है, वह इसी फरवरी के मध्य में हुआ। तब से अब तक श्रीमन्, इतना समय नहीं गुजरा कि हम कह सकें कि जांच में क्या निकला। जांच होने के बाद हम यह कह सकेंगे श्रीमन्, कि इसमें क्या वस्तुस्थिति है।

*181. [The questioners (Sarvashri Sundar Mani Patel, Lokanath Misra, K. P. Singh Deo and Debananda Amat) were absent. For answer vide col. 22 infra]

RATE OF GROWTH DURING FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

*182. SHRI GURMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIR: SHRI A. G.
KULKARNI : SHRI KRISHAN
KANT : SHRI J. S. TILAK : SHRI
V. B. RAIU : SHRI KALI
MUKHERJEE : DR. Z. A. AHMAD
: SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

t The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir.