

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Extension of Operations of Global Racket in Human Blood to India

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the report to the effect that some western pharmaceutical companies are extending operations of their global racket in human blood to India.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): Sir, Government's attention has been drawn to press reports in the 'Indian Express' and 'Patriot' dated 18th December, 1973 suggesting that some international agencies have initiated attempts to operate in India in the field of blood and blood-derivatives. This is an extremely serious matter and Government shares the concern shown by hon. Members. We are desperately short of blood and blood-derivatives in the country and it is necessary to prevent any such exploitation. According to the present law, export of whole blood and blood plasma and anti-D serum have been totally banned at the instance of this Ministry. Some plasma fractions, however, can still be exported. I will have the whole matter urgently reviewed in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce with a view to determining the amount of such product being exported and to consider whether or not this should be permitted. As far as illegal operations are concerned, these have to be put down with a heavy hand, I am getting in touch with the Maharashtra Government, the World Health Organisation and other concerned agencies in this matter immediately so that any such evil can be nipped in the bud.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, at the recent Second Conference of the Indian Society of Blood Transfusion in Ahmedabad, Dr. J. G. Jolly, in his Presidential address pointed out that some western pharmaceutical companies which run a \$ 150 million global racket in human blood have extended their operations to India. After Dr. Jolly's speech, some doctors from Bombay said that in Bombay they were approached by some

foreign nationals and were given some allurements so that they would give them blood.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

Sir, there is an old international traffic in human blood. This was first revealed by Dr. Bourel, who is an Argentinian and who is an adviser to the World Health Organization. He pointed out that ten industries in the United States make an annual profit of at least \$ 150 million in blood money from this shameful exploitation of impoverished Latin Americans. From Mexico alone, they get blood worth \$ 10 million; they get it from other Latin American countries also.

Sir, it is said that foreign pharmaceutical firms are connected with this. We have in this country about 2,550 pharmaceutical firms, out of which 45 are very big foreign companies like the Hindustan Lever, the Pfizer and so many others. They are controlling 70 per cent of the total drug production in our country. In view of this and when there is a mention of pharmaceutical firms, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any one of these foreign drug companies who are operating in India have got any hand behind this racket either in an open way or in a clandestine way.

I would like to have some information on this point.

Furthermore, Sir, it is suggested in the report that there are three countries which are major buyers of this human blood and these are the U.S.A., West Germany and Israel. The blood that is sent to the U.S.A. is used for making albumin, gamma-globulin, etc. There are some more medical names. Then these products of human blood are exported to our country and to other developed and developing countries. The profit earned on these products is as high as 200 per cent. I would like to know whether Government has any knowledge of the agents who are working in India on behalf of these countries, namely, the U.S.A., West Germany and Israel.

Then, there is a suggestion in the newspaper *La Nacion*, published from Buenos Aires, that this traffic in human blood

flourishes because the ruling families in some of the Latin American countries have a vested interest in the blood exporting business and Nicaragua, Haiti and Guatemala are particularly mentioned in this connection. I would like to know whether any rich party in India is also connected with this business. This is a very serious question. Recently we had a report and this question was raised in this House also, that a certain international organisation by the name of Mafia has started its operations in India. It seems that some international gangster firms have started their operations in India.

(Time Bell rings)

Sir, I will take one more minute. There is no limit to the extent to which certain profiteers will go in the United States to earn their profits. Here is a book by an American. It is called 'Money Makers'. It gives the story of Americans new breed of multi-millionaires. I do not want to waste the time of the House but this book reveals absolutely fantastic stories, the limits to which the money makers can go. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he has any information as to whether these agents of human blood are connected with their agents in the U.S.A. and if so, what he is going to do about it?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, as I have already stated, I entirely share the concern because this is a very serious matter and if these new rackets are starting, we have got to see that they do not grow at all. Now, Sir I am afraid I am not in a position yet to give any specific reply to the questions he has asked as to which firms and which countries are involved in this matter. This is a matter which will require very close investigation. Yesterday I tried to get in touch with the Maharashtra Government but because of the Bandh we were not able to do so. I would submit that apart from the Maharashtra Government, we will also have to utilise even the C.B.I. and Interpol in this matter because from the reports it is evident that there is an international racket going on. Therefore, it has got to be looked into very carefully. At this stage I can only say that we will involve all these agencies and as far as we are

concerned, we will be as vigilant as possible in order to see that any sort of trading in human blood or exploitation of human blood, which is a most uncivilised and derogatory thing to do, does not take place, at least at the expense of our people.

श्री ओउम प्रकाश त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश): अध्यक्ष महोदय, बड़े अश्चर्य की बात है कि अहमदाबाद में डाक्टरों की मीटिंग होने के पश्चात् जब वहाँ ब्लड ट्रांसफ्यूजन ऐक्सपर्ट्स और दूसरे डाक्टरों ने यह रहस्योद्घाटन किया कि इस प्रकार वैटर्न फार्मासियुटिकल फर्मों के ऐजेन्ट्स ने उनको अप्रोच किया है कि वहाँ से खून जमा करके उनको दिया जाए। यह देशव्यापी बहुत बड़ा रैकेट है जो कि गरीब देशों से वहाँ की गरीब जनता का आर्थिक शोषण नहीं, खून शोषण करने के दृष्टिकोण से अपने ऐजेन्ट्स फैलाये हुए हैं। श्रीमन्, यह चीज एक साधारण तरीके से पहले भी पेपर्स में आ चुकी है कि अमरीका की फर्म कम से कम 1 हजार, 5 सौ लाख डालर की लागत से इस व्यापार को चला रही है और लैटिन अमरीका के देशों में 5 लाख लीटर खून प्रति मास वहाँ जा रहा है और मेक्सिको, अर्जन्टीना, कोलम्बिया आदि देशों में सौ लाख डालर का खून प्रति वर्ष जा रहा है अमरीका, जर्मनी और इजराइल की फर्मों को। मैं सरकार से यह बात जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या अहमदाबाद में हुई डाक्टरों की कॉन्फ्रेंस में बम्बई से डाक्टरों ने जो रहस्योद्घाटन किया गया क्या सरकार को उससे पहले इस तथ्य की जानकारी थी या नहीं? यदि थी तो आपने इस दिशा में क्या कदम उठाये? यदि आपको जानकारी नहीं थी तो आप यह बतायें कि आपके विभाग में कौन सी चीज की कमी है जिससे कि जिस के आप को जानकारी

[श्री ओउम् प्रकाशा न्यागी]

नहीं हुई? उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, दस दस हजार रुपये महीने के ऐजेन्ट्स यहां पर आये हुए हैं जो कि यहां के ब्लड ट्रांसमिशन ऐक्मपर्ट्स के साथ मिलकर खून कलेक्ट करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। आपने अभी बताया कि महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट से कांटेक्ट करने की कोशिश की गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि चूंकि ग्रहमदावाद में वम्बई के डाक्टर्स ने यह बात बता दी तो महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट से ही यह जानने की कोशिश आप कर रहे हैं? क्या यह संभव नहीं है कि बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश, दिल्ली में भी इस प्रकार के ऐजेन्ट्स उनके आये हों? देश के अन्य प्रान्तों में भी इस प्रकार के ऐजेन्ट्स हैं और ये वहां से खून कलेक्ट कर रहे हैं, इसकी जानकारी करने के लिए आपने क्या प्रयत्न किया या आप कौन से कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ताकि आपको इस प्रकार की जानकारी प्राप्त हो सके? बाकी प्रान्तों में भी इस प्रकार के ऐजेन्टों का जाल है, इस प्रकार की जानकारी आप करें।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जैसा कि अभी अभी मालवीय जी ने भी बताया कि इन देशों की कंपनियां, औषधि निर्माता जो अमरीका, वैस्ट जर्मनी और इजराइल की हैं, वह अन्नत देशों, अविक्सित देशों के गरीबों का नाजायज फायदा उठाकर वहां से खून कलेक्ट कर रहे हैं और दो सौ गुने दामों पर खून और उसकी अन्य चीजें बनाकर विदेशों को भेजना चाहते हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आपको इन तीन देशों के ऐजेन्ट्स के बारे में कि देश में उनकी कुछ बांचेज है, इसकी जानकारी है या नहीं?

दूसरी बात मैं यह . . .

श्री उप-सभापति : तीसरी बात।

श्री ना० कृ० शंजवलकर (मध्य प्रदेश) : आप अगली बात कहा कीजिए।

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : तीसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि खून का जो व्यापार यहां से हो रहा है खून यहां से कलेक्ट होगा और फिर निर्यात किया जाएगा, कोई चोरी से तो ले नहीं जाएगा, क्या इस खून के व्यापार पर जो विदेशी कंपनियां यहां स्थापित करना चाहती हैं, आप उन पर इस प्रकार का कोई कानूनी प्रतिबन्ध लगाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं कि इस प्रकार से कोई भी खून का निर्यात विदेशी कंपनियां यहां से नहीं कर सकेंगी? ऐसा कोई कानूनी प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाएगा इसका आप विचार कर रहे हैं?

अंतिम बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रकार के कांड की आप सी० वी० आई० या जुडिशल तौर पर इंक्वायरी करने की कोशिश करेंगे जिससे यह सही जानकारी आपको प्राप्त हो सके कि विदेशी कंपनियों का पड्यंत्र कहां कहां किम कहा राई तक पहुंच चुका है और यह भी बताये कि इसे रोकने की दिशा में क्या मैं क्या प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है।

डा० कर्ण सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यही विनंती करूंगा कि हमारा जो मूल वक्तव्य है उसमें मैंने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि यह रक्त का जो मामला है बड़ा गंभीर है और इसी मंत्रालय के अनुरोध पर ब्लड और ब्लड प्लाजिमा और गेंटी डी सीरम को टोटली बैन कर दिया था। यह लीगल पोजीशन मैं आप को बना रहा हूं। लेकिन अब भी कुछ प्लाजिमा फ्रैक्शन है। एक तो ब्लड है और उसके बाद उसमें प्लाजिमा निकलता है। प्लाजिमा में कुछ और चीजें निकलती हैं गैमाग्लोब्यूलम इत्यादि

जिन को प्लाजिमा फ्रैक्शंस कहते हैं। अभी तक कुछ प्लजिमा फ्रैक्शंस एक्सपोर्ट हो रहे हैं। उनके ऊपर प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है। मैंने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री के साथ विचार विमर्श कर के हा देखेंगे कि उनकी आवश्यकता क्या है एक्सपोर्ट करने की उनको इजाजत देनी चाहिये या नहीं देनी चाहिये।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक बात मैं और कह दू जिस को उन्होंने पूछा नहीं है, लेकिन उसकी बैकग्राउंड है। हमारे अस्पताल जिनने हैं उनमें रक्त की बहुत कमी है। जब मैंने यह महत्वमा संभाला है, मैं लिली में बाहर नहीं जा पाया, लेकिन कम से कम दिल्ली में मैंने बहुत मारे अस्पताल देखे और बड़े बड़े अस्पताल जैसे आल इंडिया मेडिकल इंस्टिट्यूट है, सफरजग अस्पताल इत्यादि है, वहां भी ब्लड बैंक में बहुत कमी है खून की। मैंने उनमें पूछा कि क्या कारण है। उसका यह कारण है कि लोगों ने खून लेने का आदंग है वह ठीक नहीं है। कुछ लोग दे भी नहीं सकते। कुछ खरीदा जाता है खून। तो यह सारा प्रश्न जो रक्त का है इसपर एक नई निगाह डालने की जरूरत है क्योंकि इसके बिना बहुत नुकसान हो रहा है। तो इस संदर्भ में यह बहुत जरूरी बन जाता है कि हमारे देश का खून बाहर न जाये। इस लिए मैं सहमत हूँ उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य से जब वे यह कहते हैं कि इसके ऊपर कड़ी नजर रखनी चाहिये।

महाराष्ट्र का तो मैंने केवल इस लिए जिक्र किया कि जब कल रिपोर्ट अखबारों में आई थी, तो मैंने सोचा कि अगर मुझे कुछ इमीजिएट इन्फार्मेशन मिलती तो मैं आपके सामने रखता, लेकिन कल हम महाराष्ट्र को काटैक्ट

नहीं कर सके। यह ठीक है कि केवल बम्बई की बात नहीं है। हमारे देश में इसको देखना पड़ेगा कि क्या चल रहा है, कौन खून ले रहा है और लीगली उसको बन्द करें और जो फिर इन्धोगल कोशिश करें लेने की, उनको सजा मिलनी चाहिये। इस विषय में हम देख रहे हैं और जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि न केवल सी० वी० आई० जो अपने देश की संस्था है बल्कि इंटरपोल जो इंटरनेशनल एक पुलिस ऑर्गेनाइजेशन है उसकी भी महायता ली जाय क्योंकि यह सारा पड्यत्र मुझे लग रहा है कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पड्यत्र है। जहां दूसरे अन्य देशों में रक्त ले कर के उन्होंने प्राफिट बनाया वहां अब भारतवर्ष ही एक ऐसा देश रह गया है कि अब हमारे ऊपर उनकी कृपादृष्टि हो रही है। इस लिए हमें देखना है कि इस प्रकार की कोई चीज न बढ़े। मैं माननीय सदस्य को और सदन को आश्वासन दिलाता हूँ कि हमारी तरफ से इसमें कोई ढिलाई नहीं होगी और हम तुरन्त इसके ऊपर कोशिश करेंगे कि जो भी संभव हो सकेगा, करने योग्य होगा, वह करेंगे।

(Interruption)

श्री ओउमप्रकाश त्यागी: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने एक जानकारी चाही थी जो नहीं मिली। मैं एक बात, यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अहमदाबाद में जो कांफ्रेंस डाक्टर्स की हुई जिसमें यह रहस्योद्घाटन हुआ, उसमें पहले क्या आप को इसकी जानकारी थी या नहीं थी।

डा० कर्ण सिंह: मेरी अर्ज सुनिये। जो हमने यह एक्सपोर्ट बंद किया है ब्लड का और ब्लड प्लाजिमा का उससे तीन चार वर्ष पहले बंद किया था। तो यह जो प्रश्न है खून का इसके विषय में तो जानकारी पहले से थी। यह जो विशेष बात उठी है, जो पार्टि-

[डा० कर्ण सिंह]

कुलर रिपोर्ट मिली है, इसको भी आगे देखने की आवश्यकता है।

श्री ओमप्रकाश त्यागी: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, क्षमा कीजियेगा। जो विदेशी कम्पनियों के द्वारा इस देश में खून की खरीद कर के उसका निर्यात किया जाता है क्या उसको जानकारी आप को पहले से थी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is very evident that the export was going on clandestinely and Government was not aware of it. They became aware of it only after the report. It is very evident from the fact that this question has been raised now. You cannot insist on his just repeating that fact.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): I want to draw the attention of the Minister to an important dimension of this problem. It is not only civilians who are in need of blood, but whenever there is a war or conflict on our frontiers our Jawans need a lot of blood. If we have not got sufficient stocks, it will be very difficult to deal with the situation. Therefore, it becomes very necessary to look into it. The other point to which I would like to draw his attention is this. It is not enough to keep in contact with the Maharashtra Government. Just as the Central Government has been taken unawares, most probably the Maharashtra Government also does not know that such things are happening. So, I would like him to contact Mrs. Moolgaonkar, who is the Chairman of the Blood Bank in Maharashtra, and most probably she will be in a position to give him much more detailed information than the Government of Maharashtra.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is true that the Jawan needs blood very much. I myself have spent all my life in forward areas and I have visited most of the military hospitals in those areas. I have seen the problem. It is very true that they must be given priority. I am grateful to the hon. Member for his suggestion about Mrs. Moolgaonkar. I will certainly look into that.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): May I know whether it is not a fact that only governmental agencies can draw blood and store blood from any source? May I know if there is any private agency that can also draw blood from human beings and store it anywhere? If that is so, what are the agencies for supervision over these private organisations? If they can take out blood and store it, then they can as well clandestinely export blood. So, what are the agencies to supervise these private organisations? May I know whether it would not be advisable for the Government to entrust this job only to governmental agencies, because otherwise there is a great possibility of smuggling of blood outside, if that is drawing so much of money, unearned money to some people? In some cases I have read in newspapers and periodicals probably the person who was half-fed did not intimate his family that he was earning money from blood banks by donating blood and thus feeding them. In India probably 35 per cent of our people are almost semi-starved and, therefore, they try to earn some money from whatever source it is possible. So, what are the steps the Government of India are taking in order to ensure that blood can only be taken out and stored by governmental agencies and nobody else? If anybody else is doing it, there must be ample supervision. If there is no supervision, then it would be presumed that the Government is conniving at smuggling.

DR. KARAN SINGH: The position, as far as I am aware, is that blood collections are very largely done by voluntary associations, for example, the Red Cross and various other voluntary associations, and Mrs. Moolgaonkar, whom the hon. Member, Mr. Goray, mentioned. In fact, there are campaigns done. These blood banks go round and voluntary associations go round and collect blood. As far as Government is concerned, perhaps they may collect it in the major hospitals, but to a large extent, voluntary associations are involved. This does raise very rightly, as the hon. Member has said, the whole question, not only of supervision of the blood but of ensuring quality control. What is happening is this. As a result of this I called for a lot of papers and I had some preliminary meetings. What is

happening is that very often sub-standard blood is being taken out. If you take out sub-standard blood, you may, in fact, be spreading infection through it. It has got to have a certain globulin count or haemoglobin count and so on. So, I feel that this whole question of blood collection, quality control and of augmenting supplies of blood needs to be looked into very closely. I have called for the papers. The Health Ministers are meeting me next month and I will be adding this as one specific item in the agenda, so that we can see what needs to be done.

REFERENCE TO VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN KARNATAKA AND MAHARASHTRA

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL (Karnataka): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this august House the violent demonstrations leading to destruction of public and private properties both in Karnataka and Maharashtra going on for the last more than two weeks unabated. Parliament wanted to discuss this problem a couple of days ago but the Home Minister made an appeal to all the political parties not to have a discussion on this subject, and he made an appeal to all the political parties to cooperate with the Parliament both the Karnataka Government and the Maharashtra Government, in maintaining law and order and peace in those States. I would like to tell this House what happened after the Union Home Minister made an appeal to the political parties and also to the public in general through Parliament. After that appeal, more than twenty thousand Kannadigas have crossed borders and they have come to Karnataka as refugees. I want to quote one instance. On the 11th December, 1973, an unruly mob attacked one of the villages on the border of Karnataka—that is in Maharashtra—and they stripped naked fifty Kannadiga women and they drove those women into Karnataka, who were picked up while they were on the road by lorry, and they were brought to Chickodi. The whole day they were naked. The next day morning sarees were distributed by

the Chickodi Municipal President to them. And what happened after the appeal made by the Union Home Minister? The Shiv Sena Chief gave a call for a *bandh*; yesterday there was a *bandh*. And we can read in the papers the havoc that has been caused yesterday: a lot of property, public property and private property, has been damaged. And it is really very strange that the ruling party has wholeheartedly supported the *bandh*. The President of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee has wholeheartedly supported the *bandh*. And it is not an exaggeration if I say that this *bandh* had the blessing of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the blessing of the ruling party in Maharashtra and of most of the political parties in Maharashtra. The ruling party there, as you know, Sir, has joined hands with the Shiv Sena. They have joined hands with the Shiv Sena because there is a bye-election to be held, caused because of the resignation of Mr. Bhandare, who is the Governor of Bihar. In order to contest that bye-election they have joined hands with the Shiv Sena, and they have adopted an active member of the Shiv Sena as their party candidate and the Shiv Sena has come out with a statement saying that they are not going to set up any candidate but on the other hand they are going to support the candidate set up by the ruling Congress Party.

Although these violent activities have been going on for the last more than two weeks, till to this date the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has not condemned those violent activities. That shows the sympathies the Maharashtra Chief Minister and the Maharashtra Government are having with regard to the agitation that is going on. I would go to the extent of saying that they are all engineered, and they are all guided by the ruling Congress Party in Maharashtra. In view of the unholy alliance of the Congress Party with the Shiv Sena, not only the Kannadigas, no linguistic minorities are safe today in Bombay. That is why I demand a statement from the Home Minister, from the Central Government. I want to know how they want to deal with the situation; I want to know what steps they propose to take to allay the fears of the linguistic minorities in Bombay and in other parts of Maharashtra.