

श्री राजनारायण : हमारा यह सवाल है कि मंत्री जी यह बताएं कि धर्म तेजा प्रधान मंत्री और अन्य मंत्रियों पर क्या खर्च कर रहा है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : Sir, having denied that insinuation, I would like to add, for the information of the hon. Shri A. D. Mani who asked what is the amount involved, that it is like this that 1963...

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी क्या डिनाइ कर रहे हैं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि धर्म तेजा भारत से जाने से पूर्व यहां मंत्रियों से मिला था ? क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि प्रधान मंत्री से मिला था ? क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि आबेराय होटल में ठहरा था ? यह सारी जानकारी हमने कराई थी ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing this. Please sit down. Next question.

F. QUESTION PAPERS LEAKED OUT IN WEST BENGAL

*354. **DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA :** †

SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports that question papers of the Higher Secondary Examination for the year 1970 in West Bengal, leaked out before the commencement of the examination; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya.

(b) The Government of West Bengal have reported that the matter is under investigation. Appropriate action will be taken by the State Government as soon as the investigation report is received by them.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, the answer that we have heard is extremely disappointing. I have put several other questions on the functioning of the Secondary Education Board and each of the answer has been perfunctory and unsatisfactory. And you may be surprised to learn, Sir, that in West Bengal we have no Secondary Education Board, we have only a Secondary Education Eradication Board. The cause of secondary education is being steadily eradicated in a planned way by that Board. And it is being presided over by two persons who have been transplanted for purely political considerations, in that Secondary Education Board, for completing the task of eradication ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : That is the background of my question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The background should not be very long.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is a very short background, Sir. It is absolutely essential.

Is he not aware of the state of the Secondary Education Board, and of the facts that it is absolutely in the doldrums, that corruption in secondary education has taken its concentrated form in the Board of Secondary Education and that the repeated leakage of question papers is a result of corruption ? And the man who is primarily responsible for it is the Secretary himself and it is a known fact. Such leakage has taken place even in the past and Government's attention was drawn to it but to no effect. But that man was powerful enough to stay there in spite of all protests, all opposition, from all quarters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put the question.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : The question is whether the Education Minister is aware of the

direct relationship between the officials including the Secretary himself, and the corrupt practice, vitiating the examination system leading to the leakage of the question papers year after year? Secondly, will the Education Minister take an expeditious decision—it is an urgent matter; otherwise, it will make further examinations a mere farce—of removal of that person from that position? I would further like to inform the hon. Minister that in the last one year not a single meeting of the Secondary Education Board was held and that the functions of the Board, all the corrupt functions of the Board, have been performed by the President with the connivance of that corrupt Secretary under the special power given to him according to the Act. So, in exercise of his special power, he has indulged in corrupt practices...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA: That is the question, Sir, whether the Minister is aware of the corrupt practices indulged in by the President together with the Secretary for the last one year resulting in the supersession of hundreds of school governing bodies.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Sir, on a point of order. My point of order is that the question is with regard to the leakage of question papers. Now, this Dr. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya belonging to the ruling Congress actually is on a witch-hunt of the Secretary because the Secretary happens to be appointed during the United Front Government. That is the game. ... (Interruptions) I am on my point of order. The question is in regard to the leakage of the question papers. Now, taking advantage of this question, why is Dr. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya bringing into this the question of corruption or otherwise of the Secretary and of the President of the West Bengal Secondary Education Board. I can tell you, Sir, that before Mr. Sinha, the Professor, came as Secretary, the Board was under the suzerainty of the ruling Congress and then it was a sin of corruption. ... (Interruptions) My point of order is this. You will protect the Secretary and the President who have no means to defend themselves. This question should not be made an instrument for attacking the policies of the United Front Government as in 1969. ... (Interruptions) Don't shout.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: You give your ruling on my point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chattopadhyaya, kindly confine yourself to the question. You are going too much beyond the scope of it. Please put the question.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Sir, on a point of order. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: (Addressing Mr. Goswami) How is it that you answer my point of order?

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: You sit down.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: My point of order is to be decided by him? Let him sit down. Who is he to shout at me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Roy. Please sit down. No, no.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: One, Congress, and the other, CPI. They go on attacking the United Front. It is a mini-front here.

(Continued interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down Mr. Roy. Nothing will be recorded.

Now, Dr. Chattopadhyaya, please confine yourself to the question, asking what steps have been taken. Do not introduce other foreign material.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA: I was confining myself to the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you were not. That is my ruling.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I asked whether the Minister is aware that corrupt practices including corrupt practices leading to the leakage of the question papers were indulged in by the President and the Secretary of the Secondary Education Board in violation of all the normal procedures, exercising all his special

powers, without summoning a single regular meeting of the Board for the last one year. And, Sir, I want to submit that I did not refer to any party. I am always obedient to you. So, now that CPM cat was out of the dirty UF bag.

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, may I submit that the Union Ministry of Education does not come into the picture at all? I am answering the question on behalf of the West Bengal Government. The West Bengal Government just now happens to be under the President's Rule, and, whatever information the hon'ble Member is seeking, I will convey it to the West Bengal Government and, when I get the information, I will convey it to the hon'ble Member. As regards the enquiry, I will request the West Bengal Government to conclude their investigations soon.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, by law and according to the Constitution all the powers of the West Bengal Government, including the responsibility for education, vest in the Central Government. To answer the question this way is clearly evading the issue and is to abridge the privileges of the Members. So I request the Minister, through you, to give a proper and satisfactory answer. I gave adequate advance notice and expected satisfactory replies to the questions put by me relating to the Education Department. Not a single answer to any of the questions has been forthcoming from the Department. I beg your protection against this perfunctory dealing of the Department.

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, may I explain? The hon'ble Member raised a question about the working of the Secondary Education Board during the last one year or even more. Just now we are responsible, no doubt. I will therefore, make enquiries. When I get the information, I will convey it to the hon'ble Member.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I hope I will be allowed to put my question ...

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : On a point of order. मेरा निवेदन यह है कि शासन यह कह सकता है कि कुछ समय चाहिए, लेकिन उनका यह कहना कि वह पहले वाली बात है इसलिए हम नहीं बताते, गलत है। तो मैं आप के द्वारा प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय

यह कहें कि वे कल जवाब देंगे, परसों जवाब देंगे, तीन दिन बाद जवाब देंगे, लेकिन यह नहीं कह सकते कि हम जवाब नहीं देंगे।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, मैंने यह नहीं कहा था कि मैं नहीं बताना चाहता। मैंने केवल यह कहा था कि जो सूचना हमारे पास मौजूद है, वह हम बता देंगे, लेकिन जो सूचना हमारे पास नहीं है, वह राज्य सरकार से मंगा कर, उनको भेज दी जायेगी।

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, this is a very serious matter. I should not be disturbed either by the C.P.(M) or the Syndicate. May I know, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister is aware that this particular President of the Secondary Education Board and the Secretary are not only corrupt but thoroughly inefficient and incompetent? He says he has started an enquiry. May I know whether for a fair enquiry, the Government will remove these particular two men, President and the Secretary, because they will completely influence the enquiry and will not allow other people to give evidence?

Secondly, is it not a fact that the general rule is if the relatives of the President or the Secretary sit for an examination, then the President and the Secretary have to declare before the Board beforehand that they have nothing to do with the particular examination? Is it not a fact that this year the son of the President of the Secondary Education Board did sit for the examination but he did not disclose that his son was going to sit for the examination? He particularly manipulated it so that the question papers were leaked out. Is it not a fact that this year the gentleman whom he appointed as the Head Examiner in Sanskrit used to visit the Sanskrit College and School centre every day to take particular care of his son? The allegations are very grave. They are being continuously discussed in all the papers. The son did sit for the examination and he leaked out the papers. Would the Minister assure the House that pending investigations he would at least remove these two officers?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, the hon'ble Member has given some very useful information. I will convey it to the West Bengal Government to keep it in mind while the investigation is going on.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : What about the decision? Would he remove this particular corrupt President and the Secretary who are vitiating the enquiry? Whom shall we refer the matter to if not to the Education Minister here? Shall I speak in Hindi? आप उन को हटाइयेगा या नहीं हटाइयेगा; यह बताइये।

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Sir, while rising on a point of order I would like to assure the House that I have nothing to do with the political overtones that this question has ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : ... But the way the Minister is replying, namely, that he will convey it to the State Government, that he will ask them, all that is not convincing. According to the Constitution, it is Dr. Rao who is responsible on behalf of the President for all that is happening in education in West Bengal, and he has to be informed. Or he has to tell the House that notice is required for the question. This sort of answer would not do and we cannot put up with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down Mr. Tyagi.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Sir, I have a point of order. To maintain the decorum of the House we should follow the old convention that outsiders may not be attributed any motive of being corrupt or anything in this House in their absence. Unless their explanation is asked for or an enquiry is held or some judicial verdict is there to call an officer, either of the State Government or of the Centre, corrupt without any proof would not be proper.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, the point raised by Mr. Tyagi does not hold water because the officers may not be present here but the Minister is here to reply ...

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: What has Shrimati Purabi Mukherjee to say about the point of order raised by Mr. Tyagi?

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Mr. Chairman, let me finish my point of order. The Minister with regard to the point raised by Mr. Tyagi...

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Sir, my point of order is that she cannot raise a point of order on a point of order. She must have an independent point of order.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY : Let me finish, please. The officers in charge may be possibly present here but the Minister in charge who runs the Government and the Department there is here.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: What about the 20 years of corruption in Congress in West Bengal?

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY : Please sit down. Observe the rules. Do not show us temper ...

SHRI N. M. DHARIA: Sir, the hon'ble Mr. Tyagi has raised a point of order. To that point of order she has to add something. It is the responsibility of the House to give a patient hearing to the hon'ble Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am hearing.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, the question has been very pertinently raised by hon'ble Dr. Chattopadhyay with regard to the functioning of the Secondary Board of Education and the leakage of question papers. But the way the Minister is replying to that very important and very serious question, we cannot sit idle without registering our protest about it. Let there be a Committee appointed by this House to go into the affairs of the Secondary Board of Education. That is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not agree.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: There should be a Committee to investigate the corruption of the West Bengal Government when Shrimati Purabi Mukherjee was the Minister.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPA- 12 Noon.
DHYAY : Who are you ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The rule is quite clear that ordinarily no reference should be made to outsiders who are not here and against whom charges are made here. In case somebody is mentioned in an exceptional case, the Member has got to satisfy me that he has got sufficient material against the person and a reference to that person is relevant. That is very important.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Sir, I have a submission to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: I have a submission on this.

आपने जो इस समय रुलिंग दी। जो प्रश्न था उस प्रश्न में यह सवाल इसलिए खड़ा हुआ कि मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह कहा... (Interruption) इसका उल्लेख इसलिए करना पड़ा कि वहाँ पर एक इन्क्वायरी होने के बाद जो लोग इन्क्वायरी करवा रहे हैं, जब उन्हीं के ऊपर आक्षेप है और यहाँ पर उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किए गए, तब यह कहना कि उनका उल्लेख नहीं होना चाहिए, मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि किस तरह से हम आपके समक्ष और सरकार के समक्ष इस बात प्रकट करेंगे। जब सरकार ने जो प्रोसीजर अडाप्ट किया है इन्क्वायरी कमेटी का और इन्क्वायरी कराने का, जब वही लोग इम्प्लिकेटेड हैं तो सरकार के माध्यम से इन्क्वायरी न करा कर एक अलग ऐजन्सी बनानी चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें आपको कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over. Next item—Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

N. G. Os. STRIKE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DANG:†
SHRI MAHITOSH PURAKAYAS-
THA :
DR. SALIG RAM :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the N. G. Os' strike in Himachal Pradesh for the grant of Punjab pay scales and their threat to resort to extreme action if their demand is not conceded;

(b) whether Government have reconsidered the matter and have decided to grant them the Punjab scales of pay in view of the original understanding and the past practice in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether Government have decided to grant the revised pay scales with effect from the 1st February, 1968, the date since when the Punjab pay scales were revised;

(d) whether Government have considered the matter of grant of compensatory allowance in Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) whether Government have also decided to fix proper rate for the categories not covered in the list and if so, the nature of the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI :
Sir, we have not got the statement. It is a Short Notice Question. The answer must be read out. Otherwise, how can we put questions ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :
Sir, I am prepared to read it out.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: It should be read as a matter of course.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Satyavati Dang.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, Government are aware of the situation created in Himachal Pradesh as a result of strike of the Non-Gazetted Officers and their demands. The general policy of prescription of pay scales for the employees of all the Union Territories including Himachal Pradesh was reviewed recently and it was decided to adopt Central pattern of pay and allowances with effect from 6th March 1970. The Government also decided to consider sympathetically the cases of those who would be adversely affected by this decision. The Government have further reviewed the matter and taken the following decisions:—

(i) The decision to apply Central scales of pay and allowances to Union Territories may, in respect of Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh (Non Sectt. staff) be given effect to from 1-2-1968 instead of 6-3-1970;

(ii) The existing staff of Himachal Pradesh will be given an option to come over to the Central scales of pay and allowances or to retain the existing scales of pay and allowances. In respect of those who opt for the Central pattern and whose total emoluments i.e. pay, dearness pay, dearness allowance and other compensatory allowances, suffer a drop on the fixation of pay and allowances on the Central scales, the difference would be made good in the shape of personal pay/allowances which would be absorbed in future increases of emoluments; and

(iii) Such of the staff of Himachal Pradesh mentioned in sub-para (ii) above who have been in receipt of allowances for which there is no parallel in the Central pattern and which are not based on the pattern available in the neighbouring State of Punjab would continue to get these allowance irrespective of the option exercised by them.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : आन ए प्वाइंट आफ़ प्रोसीजर सर ।

मैं इस बात के लिए मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने हिमाचल प्रदेश के कर्मचारियों के लिए घोषणा की। लेकिन यह जवाब जो दिया गया है, अच्छा होता,

सभापति महोदय, अगर इस जवाब को देखकर आप मंत्री महोदय को सुवो-मोटो स्टेटमेंट देने के लिए कहते। क्योंकि इस सवाल के बारे में यह स्पष्ट है कि क्या सरकार ने संशोधित वेतनमान 1 फरवरी, 1968 से लागू करने का निर्णय किया है और जो जवाब दिया गया है उसमें भी कहा गया कि 1 फरवरी, 1968 से लागू किया गया है। तो लोडेड क्वेश्चन करने के बजाय पार्लियामेंटी प्रोप्राइटी यह डिमांड करती है कि सरकार अपनी तरफ़ से घोषणा करे, बनिस्वत इसके कि अपनी पार्टी के सदस्यों द्वारा सवाल रखवाकर घोषणा की जाए।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : सभापति महोदय, मैं इसके सम्बन्ध में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य श्री भंडारी को जो भी घटनाक्रम हुआ, उसकी जानकारी नहीं है।

जो 1 फरवरी, 1968 से पे-स्केल देने का सवाल था, इस के बारे में एन० जी० ओज० के प्रतिनिधिगण आये थे, उनसे बात हुई थी यह बात बहुत लोगों को मालूम है। उनको यह भी मालूम है कि गवर्नमेंट इस बात को सोच रही थी कि ऐसा करना चाहिए और इस बारे में सोच-विचार किया जा रहा था। यह लोगों को मालूम था। निर्णय तो कल ही लिया गया है। इसलिए यह कहना और यह आरोप लगाना कि अपनी पार्टी के मेम्बर द्वारा लोडेड क्वेश्चन कराया गया है, यह सरासर गलत है हमने कुछ नहीं कहा। जो प्रश्न पूछा गया उसका जवाब दिया गया है।

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, this is absolutely wrong ...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Mrs. Dang.

SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DANG: I am very happy that the Home Minister has said that the new pay scales will be

given effect to from 1-2-1968 and not from March 1970. But I am very sorry to say that for question (b)—whether the Government has decided to give us the Punjab scales which we were getting before, on the basis of past practice, as we were attached with Punjab—no answer has been given anywhere. I also want to ask whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh pressed strongly for the grant of the Punjab scales of pay to the NGOs on the basis of past practice and whether in his communication dated 20-3-1970 he has said that the Himachal Pradesh NGOs have earned the Punjab scales of pay and it should be given to them. I would also like to know whether it was suggested by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh that nothing but the Punjab scales of pay would satisfy the NGOs, but in case the Government did not agree to give the Punjab scales, they would be happy if the Punjab scales were given at least for the period from 1-2-1968. Then I have another suggestion to make. Our demand for the continuation of the compensatory allowance to the Himachal Pradesh employees which they were getting is not because it is a compensatory allowance....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DANG: I am putting the question. Because Himachal Pradesh has a difficult terrain, everything comes from the plains to the hills and everything is expensive—the compensatory allowance should be given to them on the basis of this difficulty for them and Himachal Pradesh should be treated separately from any other place. This is my question, whether they are thinking of giving this compensatory allowance, and whether the Chief Minister has asked this question.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: You will get a favourable reply.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, it is well-known that in his public statements and in his speeches as well as correspondence with her, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has been pressing for Punjab scales of pay for his employees. This point has been made known by him on several occasions earlier, but we explained to him our difficulties, why Punjab scales of pay cannot be granted to the N. G. Os of Himachal Pradesh. During our talks with him, he

indicated to us that the N.G. Os themselves, before they split—now there are two ranks—they themselves suggested certain alternatives to Punjab scales of pay. One alternative was that Punjab scales of pay could at least be given with effect from 1st February, 1968 till the Central scales of pay were announced, i.e. in April 1970, when the Central scales were announced. There were difficulties and we could not accept this demand put forward by the Chief Minister. We asked him further and then he told us certain alternatives which, according to him, were given to him by the N. G. Os themselves and one of which is that the Central scales of pay instead of being made operative from April 1970 should be made operative from 1st February, 1968. This was the first. The second suggestion given by the N.G.Os to the Chief Minister and indicated to us later on was that the allowances etc. should be protected, and for that there should be no difficulty, and that there should be no drop in the pay packets of the employees when the Central scales of pay were implemented. The third suggestion was regarding equation of such posts which did not exist in the Delhi Union Territory or the other Union Territories. These posts were special to Himachal Pradesh and for such posts since the equal pay scales and allowances were not available, here pay and allowances had to be worked out and he suggested that this should be worked out in such a manner that there should be no disadvantage to the employees.

Now all these three demands that the Chief Minister made on the suggestion of the N. G. Os themselves have been accepted by us and we have decided to give retrospective effect to these pay scales from 1st February, 1968. Therefore, Sir, I think we have substantially met the demands of the N. G. Os and I hope that they will be able to withdraw their agitation and do their work in a peaceful manner.

SHRI MAHITOSH PURAKAYASTHA: Mr. Chairman, a peculiar situation has arisen in Himachal Pradesh, where the Chief Minister of the Union Territory is sympathetic to the demands of his employees, but he is not in a position to determine their pay scales because of constitutional situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI MAI ITOSH PURAKA-YASTHA : Here the Chief Minister is sympathetic to the demands of the employees. Is it not a fact that a part of Himachal Pradesh belonged to Punjab previously and the employees employed there were enjoying the pay scales of Punjab and now many of the employees who have come to Himachal Pradesh stand to disadvantage? And will the hon. Home Minister be pleased to state that is it not a fact that divisive and communal forces are taking advantage of this situation? The communal organisations are propagating for re-inclusion of the area which was included in the Himachal Pradesh.

Will the Home Minister be pleased to consider the suggestion of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and settle all the outstanding issues in consultation with him and will the Home Minister be pleased to assure us that if the non-gazetted employees call off their strike, there would be no victimization, those who have been arrested will be released and the cases instituted against the employees will be withdrawn?

SHRI MAHAJIR TYAGI : It will be done before the A.I.C.C. meeting is held there.

SHRI VIDYA DHARAN SHUKLA : It is a fact that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has been very sympathetic to the demands of his N. G. Os, but the fact of the matter is that most of the financial burden of Union Territories has to be borne by the Central Government and therefore, we have to take full responsibility and take a decision about either taking or not taking the financial burden over us in such matters. The ultimate decision has, therefore, to be taken by the authority which meets the pay packets or which meets the bill and therefore, Sir, the question has to be ultimately decided by us with the final approval of this House.

As far as the question of ex-Punjab employees is concerned, it is a fact that after the reorganization of Punjab, some employees had come in Himachal Pradesh and they have been feeling—and actually this is their justifiable feeling—that if they had not come over to Himachal Pradesh, they would have got the present Punjab scales. But then after the reorganization, when they came to Himachal Pradesh, now they will have to equate their lot with the employees of Himachal Pradesh and it would be very unrealistic if they

try to compare their lot and aspire for the Punjab scales.

It is always true in such conditions that all kinds of elements, good or bad, do try to take advantage of the situation, and here all kinds of elements are trying to take advantage, but it is in the interest of everybody, all right-thinking people, that normal conditions are restored in Himachal Pradesh as quickly as possible, so that undesirable elements do not take advantage of the situation.

The fourth question that has been raised by the hon. Member regarding victimization, etc. I am quite sure and I have also seen statement of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister in which he has said that after the strike is withdrawn, he would take up this matter and consult the leaders of the N. G. Os and try to see that neither any victimization is there nor anybody is unduly punished and I am sure that once normal conditions return to Himachal Pradesh the Himachal Pradesh Government itself will go into the question and normalise the whole thing. There is no doubt that they will deal with this matter with sympathy and in such a way that the N. G. Os will have no complaint whatsoever as far as this aspect of the question is concerned.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, now we heard a statement of the hon. Minister regarding the decision of the Government of India with regard to the demands of the N. G. Os of Himachal Pradesh. Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any effort was made on behalf of the Government to discuss the problem of the Himachal Pradesh N. G. Os. with the leaders of the N. G. Os of Himachal Pradesh, with the representatives of the Government of Himachal Pradesh, or it has been decided unilaterally by the Government of India without taking into consideration the demands and problems of the Himachal Pradesh N. G. Os which might have been raised in a better way by the representatives of the N. G. Os.

My second question is whether the Government have not taken up the stand as a question of prestige, not to meet the representatives of the N. G. Os of Himachal Pradesh and merely are taking resort to repressive measures. Even today it is reported that more than 1,500 N. G. Os have been arrested, many of whom have been lathi-charged and serious efforts are made to split the ranks of the N. G. Os

for the partisan interest of Shri Shukla. Now, why does not the Government settle this matter in a round-table conference by discussing the matter with the accredited representatives of the N. G. Os of Himachal Pradesh instead of taking recourse to repressive measures as it has done in the beginning? Therefore, will the Government take upon itself to call the representatives of the N. G. Os and thrash out the matters and hammer out a solution for the problem instead of imposing some decision on them by way of such a statement which I think will not only not satisfy the N. G. Os of Himachal Pradesh, but will unnecessarily create bitterness. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to put a question. This is not a discussion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Therefore, my question is whether the Government will invite the representatives of the N.G.Os of Himachal Pradesh and settle the matter at a round-table conference instead of imposing its own decision on them.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The Government of Himachal Pradesh, and particularly the Chief Minister, I understand, has held negotiations with the leaders of the N. G. Os and there have been talks going on with them. So it is not right to say that anything was evolved without consultation with the leaders of the N. G. Os. As a matter of fact, I indicated in my earlier answer that while the N. G. Os talked to the Chief Minister, they themselves suggested certain alternatives for their demands and those alternatives were forwarded to us and the Chief Minister himself pleaded with us with a great deal of force. So it is absolutely wrong for the honourable Member to suggest that without negotiations, in an arbitrary manner, we are trying to settle this question. As a matter of fact, we have been in contact through the Himachal Pradesh Government with the N. G. Os and their demands and, if at all, an agreement has not been reached so far, it is because of the meddling and interference by outside elements that this kind of a situation has arisen. I would say that left to themselves the N. G. Os will be satisfied with the offer that we have made. But if the honourable Member instigates them from here that they will not be satisfied, then, the trouble will again be there. So I would request the honourable Member to let peaceful conditions come back . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What peaceful conditions?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, not from that place.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you come back to your seat.

Sir, I was saying that nobody's partisan interests are served by such unsavoury and such bad situations. Therefore, I want to deny the allegation that the honourable Member has made that any partisan interest is being sought to be served by this. There is no question of any partisan interest being served by this. It is absolutely wrong to say that. I will only request the honourable Member to adopt a helpful attitude so that this matter could be solved.

Lastly, about victimisation, etc. I have already indicated that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh is extremely sympathetic to the N. G. Os and their demands and I am sure that after this agitation ends, he will be able to restore normalcy very early . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. We are not interested in the qualities of the Chief Minister, whether he is sympathetic or unsympathetic. He may be a good man or a bad man. Here the proposition is why the Government is standing on prestige in this matter, why the matter is not being settled in discussion with the Government employees there. The Government did make a commitment. What is this question of creating conditions . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is no point of order. Please sit down. We have taken twentyfive minutes over one question. Now Mr. Mohan Lal Gautam.

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM : Is it not a fact that under Article 309 of the Constitution rules were framed in 1959 that the Himachal Pradesh employees would get the same scales of pay and allowances as that of the Punjab employees? Is it not a fact that later on, perhaps in 1968 these rules were revised and the authority of the Governor to implement those rules was taken away? Is it not a fact that the employees who were there in Punjab had to go over to Himachal Pradesh without their consent in the sense that Kangra and other places were handed over to

Himachal Pradesh? Is it not a fact that the Chief Minister is going about loudly declaring that when Statehood is granted, the scales of pay of Punjab will be given to the employees of Himachal Pradesh? Under all these circumstances why should the Government of India unnecessarily be in the way of an amicable settlement being reached between the Chief Minister and the N. G. Os especially when both of them say the same thing? The employees want the Punjab scales of pay and the Chief Minister declares that they will be given to them provided Statehood is granted, and the Government of India had a rule in 1959 that the scales of pay of Punjab would automatically apply to Himachal Pradesh. Under all these circumstances, is it fair on the part of the Government of India not to allow them the Punjab scales of pay?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It is true that there was a system of automatic linkage of pay scales for Union Territories with such State which were adjoining the Union Territories. But the former Deputy Prime Minister who was in charge of the Finance Ministry, initiated a change and said that there should be another system, that instead of linking the pay scales of the Union Territories with those of the adjoining States, there should be the Central scales of pay or the scales of pay of the adjoining State, whichever were lower. This was the system that Shri Morarji Desai when he was the Finance Minister decided upon...

DR. BHAV MAHAVIR: But is it necessary to bring in as to who was the Finance Minister who was responsible for this?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I am only giving the factual information since the honourable Member asked me for the history of this question since 1959...

SHRI S. D. MISRA: But he did not ask you who the Finance Minister was. It is the Government of India which did it, not Vidya Charan Shukla, not Morarji Desai, not Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: You need not speak on behalf of the former Deputy Prime Minister. I am only saying that the decision was taken by him on behalf of the Government of India...

SHRI S. D. MISRA: It was a Government of India's decision.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: That goes without saying. That does not mean that it was an individual decision. Naturally it was a decision taken officially on behalf of the Government of India by the Minister in charge. And the Minister in charge happened to be Shri Morarji Desai. That is what I meant. You need not jump up from your seat for that...

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Are we jumping, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have taken already half an hour on this question.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: May I complete my answer, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The other question that the honourable Member asked was when both the Chief Minister and the employees agree on this thing why we are standing in the way of a settlement. May I say that this question does not relate to Himachal Pradesh alone? If it was a matter concerning Himachal Pradesh alone, we might have agreed with the Chief Minister and decided the question. But this relates to all the Union Territories which are spread over the entire country and therefore, it is not possible for us to take a limited view of Himachal Pradesh. What may be applicable to Himachal Pradesh, what may be good for the people of Himachal Pradesh, may not be good and may not be applicable and the Government of India may not be willing to take additional burden with regard to all the Union Territories spread over the entire country. Therefore, we are not regarding this as purely a matter which relates to Himachal Pradesh alone. This will have its implications and repercussions in all the Union Territories, whatever decision we take in this matter. When Statehood is granted, of course, it will be taken care of by the State Government, and the State Government can go and say, "We will pay the Punjab scales of pay or more than that", and we will have nothing to do in that respect because it will be limited to that particular State. But today it concerns all the Union Territories of the country and therefore, we cannot regard it purely as a question relating to Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM: On a point of order. My question was that these employees, when they were in the Punjab

Government, that is, before the division of Punjab, before Kangra and other places were handed over to Himachal Pradesh, were enjoying the rights and privileges of the employees of the Punjab Government. And when they were transferred to Himachal Pradesh, a rule was framed that they would enjoy the same scales of pay. Now, how can the Government of India change the rule adversely affecting their interests. Even the Constitution does not provide that when the employees are transferred, the rules can be changed to their detriment.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, a point of order is to be answered by you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, he wants some information and you may say whatever is necessary.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, this question he did not raise earlier.

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM: No, I did.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Unfortunately I did not hear that. I am not aware of any such rules. I am not aware that any such rule was made or any such assurance was given. But I will find out the position. At present I am not aware of any such rule or of any such assurance having been given to the erstwhile Punjab State.

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he does not know it, there is no law that everyone should know what happened in 1959.

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM : Then it should be the business of the House to teach Ministers what they should know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Thengari. I hope that will be the last question.

श्री राजनारायण : मंत्री जी को इसके बारे में पूरी बात बतलानी चाहिये ।

श्री सभापति : जब कोई चीज मालूम नहीं है तो मैं कैसे कह दूँ कि आप बतलायें या टैबिल पर रख दें । इस तरह की बात मैं कैसे कह दूँ जब कि वे कहते हैं कि मुझे मालूम नहीं है ।

श्री राजनारायण : यह मत कहें, लेकिन जब कोई सदस्य मिनिस्टर को कोई रूल बतलायें तो उसे मान लेना चाहिये ।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : यह कोई दूसरे का रूल नहीं है, गवर्नमेंट का ही बनाया हुआ रूल है ।

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is it the contention of the hon. Minister that the Government of India today is committed to changes in the policy introduced by Mr. Morarji Desai earlier? That is No. 1. Secondly, have the Government of India verified that those N. G. Os who approached the Chief Minister were the real representatives of the employees and not their stooges?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, before I reply to this question, I may again clarify that I was not sure of that particular rule which Mr. Gautam mentioned, whether it existed or not. As far as I remember, there was no such rule but to be on the side of caution I said that I would find out and if there is a rule like that, I shall come before the House and make a statement here. If there had been such a rule, we would definitely have adhered to it and considered it but, as far I remember, there is no such thing. Therefore I said that I would find out the exact position later on and place it before the House.

SHRI MOHAN LAL GAUTAM: My information from reliable sources is that a rule in 1959 was framed under article 309 of the Constitution and that was that the same scale of pay and allowances . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, the hon. Member is unnecessarily confusing the matters. The Punjab reorganisation took place in 1965, not in 1959. This question arose after the Punjab reorganisation. Now I will answer Mr. Thengari's question, Sir.

He asked about Mr. Morarji Desai's policies. I have already clarified that although the Minister in charge was Mr. Morarji Desai, the decisions were taken on behalf of the Government of India. Therefore it is not a question of any individual's policy that is sought to be changed here and there; it is a question

of the Government of India having taken some decision and that decision did not satisfy the employees. Therefore the question was again agitated and we reviewed the position and considered the question; we have taken a series of new decisions and the latest decision I have announced today. Therefore this is not a question of changing anybody's policy.

Then the second question was about the negotiations with the N. G. Os. The negotiations with the N. G. Os have been conducted mostly by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and I suppose he has been meeting the N. G. Os who approach him; they are the representatives of the electricity workers, of the transport workers and others. I suppose those N. G. Os with whom he conducted the negotiations are representatives of the N. G. Os and not anybody's stooges.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No more.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SONG AT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS IN TAMIL NADU IN PRAISE OF TAMIL NADU AND TAMIL LANGUAGES

*352. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the instructions given by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the effect that in all Government functions, a song in praise of Tamil Nadu and Tamil language should be sung ; and

(b) whether these instructions imply that National Anthem will not be sung hereafter and if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMI) : (a) According to the information furnished by the State Government, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had stated at a function held on 8th March 1970 for giving away State Film Awards that six lines from the Tamil classical poem 'Marommaneyam' written by Shri Sundaram Pillai would be sung as prayer song at the commencement of all functions organised by the State Government or attended by State Ministers.

(b) No, Sir. The State Government have, on the other hand, made it clear that the song is not a substitute for the National Anthem.

श्री ज्योति बसु पर आक्रमण करने वाले व्यक्ति का सुराग

*355. श्री राम सहाय :

डा० (श्रीमती) मंगला देवी तलवार :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उस व्यक्ति के बारे में कोई सुराग मिला है, जिस ने श्री ज्योति बसु की जान पर आक्रमण किया था; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ राजनीतिक दलों का इस कार्य में हाथ था ?

†[CLUE OF PERSON WHO MADE AN ATTEMPT ON SHRI JYOTI BASU'S LIFE

*355. SHRI RAM SAHAI :

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any clue has been found about the person who made an attempt on the life of Shri Jyoti Basu; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some political parties were involved in this incident?]

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (श्री वाई० बी० चव्हाण) :

(क) और (ख) घटना के संबंध में दर्ज मामले की छानबीन सरकार के खुफिया विभागत द्वारा की जा रही है। सन्देश में पांच व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं।

†[THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The case registered in connection with the incident is being investigated by the Bihar State CID. Five persons have been arrested on suspicion.]

†[] English translation.