

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (HRI I. K. GUJRAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) General issues pertaining to development of T. V. net-work in the country were discussed at his Conference. Report of the Conference from its sponsors is awaited. Government's policies on various issues which came before the Conference were stated by the officers who attended it.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE SUPPLY OF COPIES OF STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN : I wish to make a statement. On the 29th April Shri Pitamber Das raised a point with regard to the supply of copies of Statements which are laid on the Table of the House by Ministers in answer to questions. In this connection I would invite the attention of Members to Parliamentary Bulletin paragraph 2 which is issued before the commencement of each session of the Rajya Sabha in which the arrangements that are made for the supply in advance of the copies of the statements to Members are indicated in detail. According to present arrangements, two sets of statements are placed in the Notice Office, three sets in the Lobbies and one set on the Table of the House half an hour before the commencement of the sitting for perusal by hon'ble Members. Apart from this, a copy of the statement is now being supplied to each Member or Members in whose name or names a particular question stands in the list of starred Questions and kept in his seat in the House. Besides this, about 15 extra sets of the statement are kept in the Lobby so that any Member who is interested can obtain a copy therefrom. This arrangement seems to be quite adequate to me, and I do not think we need change it.

SHRI S. D. MISRA (Uttar Pradesh) : In this connection I would like to say something because this was discussed earlier besides Mr. Pitamber Das raising it. These 15 copies which are put in the Lobby, most of the time we find that they are exhausted ; they are inadequate. Sir, you will see that questions are put here not only by those Members in whose names they appear on the Questions Paper but also others whose names do not appear against that particular

Question. Supplementaries are asked. Sometimes we have to rush through to get a copy of the statement because there are only 15 copies. Mr. Pitamber Das requested a few days back and it was also discussed in the last session, if you might recall. May I submit that there will be no difficulty if this statement is supplied to all hon'ble Members on the desk because this is the practice in some of the Legislatures in the country ? I concede that it means some extra amount, some extra work. But this will facilitate our working. You are presuming that these 15 copies are sufficient. But, Sir, this number of 15 is too little. Therefore, I do not know how you have come to this decision that what was decided by the Secretariat on the number of copies to be supplied is correct. I think you should reconsider this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I wish again to point out that apart from 15 copies mentioned by the hon'ble Member, two sets of the statements are placed in the Notice Office, three sets in the Lobby and one set on the Table of the House.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : It becomes $21-15+2+3+1$.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And each Member putting the question gets a copy separately at his desk.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Excuse me, Sir. I take it that the average number of persons' names appearing is three against each question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I fully understand that this practice has been in vogue for a very long time. Never before an objection was raised.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : We did raise it. It is in the proceedings of the House. It is a question of convenience to the hon'ble Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These fifteen copies we started after the objection was raised.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : श्रीमन्, आपने देखा होगा कि अभी सदन में एक घंटे में केवल एक दो ही प्रश्न हो पाते हैं। बहुत से सदस्य ऐसे हैं जिनके प्रश्नों का नम्बर ही नहीं आता है और बहुत से सदस्य जो प्रश्नों में सप्लीमेंटरी करना चाहते हैं उन्हें समय ही नहीं मिलता है। इसलिए मेरा

[श्री० जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव]

निवेदन यह है कि बहुत से सदस्यों का जो प्रश्न पूछने की आकांक्षा रखते हैं, उन्हें कापी नहीं मिलती है। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन यह है कि यह जो 20 या 25 कापियों का प्रबन्ध किया गया है वह बहुत कम है। इसलिए सदस्यों को सवाल के उत्तर की ज्यादा कापिया मिल जायेंगी तो उन्हें किसी प्रकार की असुविधा नहीं होगी। केवल कुछ और कापियों साइक्लो-स्टाइल करने से काम चल जायेगा।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : श्रीमन्, आप इस बात पर फिर से विचार कर ले क्योंकि ये जो कापियों की संख्या है वह बहुत नाकाफी है। आखिर जब साइक्लोस्टाइल होता है तो सिर्फ कागज और खर्च होने का सवाल। अगर सेक्रेटेरियट यह जिम्मेदारी नहीं लेता है तो जिस मिनिस्ट्री का प्रश्न होता है उनसे कहा जाय कि वे मूलाई करें। आपका उनके लिए आदेश जाना चाहिये और जितने यहां पर मेम्बर हैं उनके लिए प्रश्न के उत्तर की कापियां आनी चाहिये। इस तरह की सुविधा की हम मांग कर रहे हैं क्योंकि प्रश्नों का जहां तक संबंध होता है वे बहुत जरूरी होते हैं। वैसे हमारे पास बहुत से कागजात आते हैं और जिन्हें पढ़ने के लिए समय नहीं मिलता है। लेकिन जहां तक प्रश्नों का संबंध है, ये बहुत जरूरी कागजात होते हैं और हर मेम्बर उनको पढ़ना चाहता है। अगर 25 ही कापियां रहेगी तो इससे मेम्बरों को परेशानी और दिक्कत होगी। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि इस विषय पर आप जरूर विचार करें।

श्री सभापति : आप इस बात का भी ख्याल रखें कि कितने मेम्बर ऐसे हैं जो एक ही सवाल के बारे में प्रश्न करेंगे और एक ही सवाल पर इन्टरस्टेड रहेंगे। 240 मेम्बरों को हर सवाल में दिलचस्पी नहीं होगी।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : To improve the position, I say, Sir, that even if 240 copies are not made available, I suggest one set of papers to be put on every Bench so that one need not look for it at other Benches.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat) : Raise it to 50.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. N. MISHRA) : I am really not able to understand the difficulty coming in the way of supplying statements to all Members. After all, we are not asking the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha to supply us copies. The statements are prepared by the Ministries, and it should not be difficult for them to supply as many copies as the number of Members here. You asked a question whether all to us are interested in a particular statement relating to a question. Many papers that you are pleased to circulate to us are of no interest to us. Personally speaking I am not interested in going through all of them; yet it is a duty cast upon the Secretariat, as it should be a duty cast upon the Ministry concerned, to make it available to every Member. That is my humble submission. We may take interest or we may not take interest. But in the interests of the efficient functioning of the house and for enabling Members to discharge their duties efficiently, it is necessary that this duty is cast on the Ministry itself to make available as many copies as there are Members in this House. We are not asking your Secretariat to do it. We are not suggesting anything which will increase the burden of your Secretariat. We are only asking the Ministry to do it. It is their duty to do it in order to enable Members discharge their duties efficiently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the view about Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's suggestion ?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Sir, on a point of order. My first objection is if we are to discuss the procedure and functioning of your Secretariat, I feel that such discussion should first take place in your Chamber instead of wasting the time of the House. Now that the topic is open, I would like to submit that since the day the Secretariat has started putting enough copies on the table in the lobby, in my experience, I have not felt any difficulty in getting a copy from the lobby. This is my experience. I am one of those Members who, as far as possible, take all statements which are placed there in the lobby everyday. And my experience I have put before you. If it is the experience of some Members that they had any difficulty, some more copies can be placed there in the lobby. But the only difficulty that I found was that all the papers are placed on one table

and so they are not in order. Instead of that, I suggest that some proper bench is put there in the lobby so that various papers can be placed on it in a proper order and it will certainly facilitate Members. I may submit also that if fifteen copies are not sufficient and if that is the experience of Members, certainly some additional copies can be put there. But to say that 240 copies should be arranged will create complications because if you demand that each Member should be given a copy, then, we will not get up-to-date information; till the last moment the Ministries are engaged in collecting information and giving information and if 240 Members are to be served with copies, then, naturally the time at their disposal is cut down and here we shall be the sufferers. If we want up-to-date information, then, I feel that the Ministries also should be given enough time. So if fifteen copies are not sufficient, some more copies can be put there.

Secondly, I would like to submit that if such matters are to be discussed, they should be discussed in your Chamber and we should not waste the time of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Now Calling-Attention...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. This point of order relates to the text of this Calling-Attention notice. Sir, here many of us from different parties individually and collectively gave notices for the calling-attention and we have all been lumped together and a kind of formulation has been made here... (Interruptions) I believe it is not the formulation expected to be given here. The wording of my notice was something else, but here we find a formulation, a wording which we never use. I can understand if, anything is edited. But here we find, "... Government of India's attitude towards the Indonesian proposal for convening a conference of Asian nations to consider the Cambodian issue". The calling-attention notice that we gave never contained this reference to Indonesia in this manner. Then why should I be associated with it in this way? I do not mind if any other Member gives it. Let it be in his name. Why should I be associated with this calling attention formulation of this kind? Therefore, Sir, I understand the difficulty and I am not

questioning the *bona fides* of the attempt to lump them together. But certainly I would not like to be associated with a formulation, with a wording, which gives an entirely opposite look which is often opposite understanding. Therefore in such cases may suggestion for the future would be, let all the calling-attention notices be subject to your admission and as they come, let them be taken... (Interruption) That I do not mind. But do you think that my friend, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, and we shall agree on anything on earth in matters like this? I do not mind his giving a notice with whatever wording he likes. (Interruptions) This is a very wrong procedure, just to save time or perhaps paper or some other difficulty. Let it not be like that. The calling-attention notices must also reflect to some extent an indication of the viewpoints of the various Members, of the different shades of opinion, in the House. This is my request to you for future. You consider it for future. Therefore, I would like to make it clear that I should never be associated with a reference to this Indonesian proposal. Now that you have accepted it and admitted it in this form, let the discussion go on, let the discussion take place, taking the Cambodian issue as the matter of discussion.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, our party also dissociates itself from this formulation, "... Government of India's attitude towards the Indonesian proposal for convening a conference of Asian nations to consider the Cambodian issue". Our calling-attention notice was to this effect. It was directed against the massive intervention of the American soldiers, the mass murders of the South Vietnamese in Cambodia by the forces of Cambodia at the instigation of the American soldiers. That was our calling-attention notice. Therefore, as far as this portion is concerned, we also dissociate ourselves from this particular point.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, in future you had please not admit our calling-attention notices. But we would not like this kind of a thing to be done in future. In the calling-attention notice if you think that the subject-matter is important, the language is parliamentary, you will be good enough to admit it. But I think there should not be any attempt to introduce a kind politics in the matter of its formulation to wipe out...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. This is not air.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When it comes to China or some other country everything in a virulent language is expressed, but the moment it comes to America, the wording is such that it is watered down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not fair Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. No, no. It is not not fair to say that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then, what is fair ? Yes, I do maintain it and I will prove this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I will come to your Chamber and prove it. I do not want a debate here on this.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY (West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, I want to say something.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let me go on with the business before us. If you will take the whole time of the House with your points of order, we will not be able to do anything.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I saw yesterday... *(Interruptions)*... "Soviet interference in the internal affairs..."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Whether it is an interference or not in the internal affairs of India, is a matter of opinion. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I say things after a study. I can come and prove these things in your Chamber, when it comes to America...

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all a different thing. Please sit down, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. This question is a different thing.

(Repeated interruptions by Shri Bhupesh Gupta)

You do not allow the work to go on. I have taken the responsibility of editing it. If there are fifteen or twenty notices

coming to me in different languages, representing different aspects, I cannot allow fifteen or twenty calling-attention motions on the List of Business. I have got to collate and put down some general language which would cover the points of view of all those who have given the calling-attention notices...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What, Sir, are you saying ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please listen to me ? Do not interrupt me like this.

This is the method which my office has been adopting and I would request honourable Members to try and appreciate the difficulty in which the office is put. When there are a large number of notices of motions there is difficulty. And in case anybody's point of view is not covered by the general language, then alone can there be any ground for a complaint. The language used here covers all the points of view, of this side or of that side.

Now let us proceed with our business. Mr. Dahyabhai Patel.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the latest development in Cambodia and to the Government of India's attitude towards the Indonesian proposal for convening a conference of Asian nations to consider the Cambodian issue.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : Sir, the Government of India are greatly concerned about the recent developments in Cambodia. The House will recall that demonstrations took place in Phnom Penh on 11th March, 1970. The demonstrators objected to the presence in Cambodian territory of forces of DRVN and PRG. This was followed by a resolution adopted at the joint session of the National Assembly and the Council of the Kingdom of Cambodia expressing support for the demand that Government take urgent and timely measures to defend the territorial integrity of the country