

कानून बनायें उसमें बनने के बाद अगर सही तौर पर उसकी स्पनीमेंटेशन नहीं कर सकते तो मेरा ख्याल है कि कानून बनाने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है मजदूरों से मलाई ले कर आप चाट जायें यह अच्छा नहीं है। शुक्रिया।]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : Now it is 5 O'clock and according to the programme there is a half-an-hour discussion to be raised by Mr. M. K. Moha.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, before you go to the next item I have something to say. I think by this time we have understood the mood of the House. Every section of the House has accepted the principle governing his Bill and the Minister in the course of his intervention has also expressed his mind to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Arjun Arora. And unless this Bill is disposed of today, I think there is no chance of this Bill being taken up in the current session. It will be held over for the next session which will be in August. The motion is only for eliciting public opinion and if it is not disposed of today, it may be delayed and may go on till October or so. It will create more complications. So I request that the amendment may be put to vote.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : I would like to know the reactions of the Labour Minister.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Many points have been raised and they have got to be replied. There cannot go unanswered. So many things have been said.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : So then it will have to go to the next session. I think since the Labour Minister rightly wants to answer certain points which have been raised . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What about 22nd?

SHRI OM MOHTA (Jammu and Kashmir) : I do not know whether it will be an official day or a non-official day. I do not think it will be a non-official day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : Mr. Chitta Basu we are very happy and we appreciate your endeavour and you see the consensus of the House is more or less that the Bill

should be sent for public opinion and I am sure that if there is some arrangement we will take it up on 22nd, but I cannot promise. It all depends upon the Parliamentary Minister and the programme of this House and the other official work. So I cannot promise. I would ask the concerned officers to consider this matter. If it is feasible, then, they can give some time on 22nd. But today we have to take up the half-an-hour discussion as programmed.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION ON POINTS ARISING OUT OF THE ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 97 GIVEN IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1970, REGARDING RADIO MOSCOW'S CRITICISM OF INDIAN LEADERS

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Rajasthan) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am thankful for the opportunity given to me for raising this half-an-hour discussion on a matter of very grave importance. For quite some time, actually since just before the general elections, the radio stations in Soviet Russia—Radio Moscow as well as its camouflaged wing, Radio Peace And Progress—have been indulging in many objectionable attacks on certain political parties in the country which really amount to interference in the domestic affairs of India. This matter has been raised on a couple of occasions previously in this House as well as in the honourable Lok Sabha and the only answer that the Government had in respect of the activities of Radio Peace and Progress was that according to the Soviets this was an autonomous body. Nobody can be so naive as to swallow this fairy tale given out by the Soviets. There is nothing private in the Soviet Union. The whole world knows that. Everything is controlled there . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : No, no. There are many things private there. They have some private property also. Only here you do not allow the poor to have a private life.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Even the lives of the people in the Soviet Union are not private there. We know what the conditions are in the Soviet Union and we need not be agitated about that. Therefore, this fairy tale must be dismissed out of our mind. We believe in the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press. If in any country there is a free press and

[Shri M. K. Mohta]

if the free press there or any other form of expression there, makes critical references to our country, to our people, to our political parties or to certain of our politicians, we will have no objection. But there are some countries unfriendly to us like China or Portugal or South Africa or Pakistan, and if in any of these countries there is a free press, I will have nothing to say. But this condition does not apply to the Soviet Union where everything is controlled and anything which comes out of the Moscow Radio or of Radio Peace and Progress, must be taken to be the official view of the Government of the Soviet Union, and this coming as it does from a country which professes friendship towards India is really something which extremely troubles us and which perhaps cannot be dismissed very lightly as has been done by the Government of India. I will only quote a couple of excerpts from their tirades

In connection with the Banking Companies Act and the Supreme Court judgement, it was said

"The Act met with furious resistance from the leaders of the reactionary Swatantra and Jan Sangh parties and the right wing leaders of the Indian National Congress splinter group who formed the so-called Organisation Congress. They exerted no little effort to prevent the implementation of the nationalisation law"

This is important—

"It was they, it appears, who inspired the Supreme Court Decision"

This is a slur not only on our political parties and politicians but also on the judiciary of the country which we, as a free people can never tolerate. The Minister said in the Lok Sabha that the attention of the Soviet Embassy, the officials of the Embassy here, was drawn to this. What I would ask the Minister is, what was the reply given by them and what was the explanation given by them and if the explanation was not satisfactory, what further action the Government has taken or proposes to take in this respect? We in the Swatantra Party do not really bother about names called to us by the Communists, whether they are in Russia or in China because it is well known that if a bad character calls you names, you do not really have to bother about it, so we do not bother about it. Let them

call us any names but when a wing of the Soviet Government casts aspersions on our judiciary, it is necessary for our own national honour to stand up, take notice and protest in the loudest possible voice. I would like to ask the Government to clarify its position on this matter. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH)

Sir, this subject has been discussed on the floor of this House on a number of occasions. Therefore I have listened to the Member's speech very carefully to see if he makes any new points or discloses any new facts, but I find he has only covered the old ground and nothing new has dropped from his lips. As far as the Governments' stand is concerned, that too has also been explained on a number of occasions and I have nothing new to disclose to the House or for the benefit of the Member, and I am afraid it is going to be a repeat performance on both sides.

In regard to Radio Peace and Progress and Radio Moscow, we have to make a distinction between these two organisations and the two Radio Stations. As the House is already aware, Radio Moscow is the official mouthpiece of the USSR Government. There is no doubt about that. As far as Radio Peace and Progress is concerned, it is a Radio Station organised and run by an independent and autonomous body consisting of a large number of Soviet writers, political commentators and the like.

SHRI BALKRISHNA GUPTA (Bihar) Are there any Soviet writers like?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA There are

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH Why not? Whatever comes from Radio Moscow, if it is in any way critical of our Government, of our policies, of course we can take objection to that but as the Member himself pointed out, apart from the fact that they made one reference to our Supreme Court, all the other broadcasts are of a nature to which we cannot really object because they have neither criticised any political party nor any individual. They have merely given their own assessment of the political situation and the economic situation prevailing in the country and their own assessment of the political parties which are functioning in our country but that is something to which

we cannot take objection. No individual has been mentioned nor any political parties have been criticised in any disparaging terms, but it is true that their reference to the Supreme Court is something which we did not like. It caused a great deal of concern to us and I want to inform the Member that as soon as we came to know of it, we took up this matter with the Soviet authorities, and we called the Soviet Chargé d'affaires to the Ministry and we explained our position to him and our concern about the whole thing and we told him that the Supreme Court was our highest judiciary and it was a very important organ of our Government and they should not have criticised the Supreme Court in this manner, and our concern about this has been conveyed to the USSR Government. We are awaiting their reaction. Their reply has not yet come to us.

As regards Radio Peace and Progress, it is true they have time and again, criticised some of the political parties and individuals also but this is something about which we should not feel greatly concerned or object to it. After all we are a mature country politically and our leaders are very mature and very wise people and we are adept in the game of give and take and cut and thrust and all that sort of thing. I would appeal to the hon. Members not to feel touchy or be so sensitive about these things. After all criticisms of this nature are levelled against us by a number of countries in the world, from the Western countries and from America.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Officially levelled against us?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : About that I have already drawn the distinction. Anything coming from Radio Moscow is official and anything broadcast by Radio Peace and Progress, I am afraid is not official. It merely reflects the viewpoint of some people in Russia who are acting independently. It is open to the Member to say that this is an official organ under the control of the USSR Government but we have to go . . .

SHRI BALKRISHNA GUPTA : Can anybody act independently in Russia?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Why not?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : In the field of international relationship, we have to accept the official explanation of the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : I think so.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : This has to be done. The hon. Members can draw their own conclusions and can come to any conclusion they like but as far as we are concerned, we accept the explanation. Further sometimes, what comes from Radio Peace and Progress is something which we do not like, and we have actually drawn the attention of the USSR Government that they should use their influence with this organisation so that all these things are not said because they can cause misunderstandings and can come in the way of our growing friendly relations with that country. So informally and otherwise we have brought it to their notice and they have also promised to do their best in this regard but as regard Radio Moscow, apart from the reference to the Supreme Court, nothing has been said by them to which we can take objection.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : It is very interesting that Mr. Mohta says that he has no objection to any criticism coming from other countries. He has objection only to the Soviet Union. Thus Mr. Mohta has exposed the hollowness of his impartiality, his love for freedom and his love for the country as well as its dignity and the dignity of the Supreme Court. The VOA, the West Berlin Television are day in and day out criticising us and painting wrong pictures of India but Mr. Mohta says he has no objection to other countries. His objection is to the Soviet Union.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : My objection is to the Government. It is an official organisation.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Everyone knows that the VOA does not run its services and its stations all over the country without Government help. Everyone knows it. If Mr. Mohta does not know, he is pretending too much. He knows a little more than others because he is a business man and he knows what setting up radio stations all over the country costs to the VOA and that, we know, cannot be done, is not being done without substantial subsidies direct, indirect, concealed and open by the Government of USA; but that Mr. Mohta does not mind because they praise the Swatantra Party and the reactionaries in this country.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : I said I do not mind your calling us names.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Mr. Gupta and Mr. Mohta think there is no autonomy in the Soviet Union. There is autonomy in the Soviet Union and people have certain freedom to move, to organise, to assert themselves, and the Writers' Union, the Intellectuals Organisation, the Peace Committee, the Trade Unions are all non-official organisations

SHRI BALKRISHNA GUPTA : Organised with the active consent of the Soviet Government.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : When Mr. Gupta visited the Soviet Union long time back. During the life-time of Stalin, he did not do everything at the direction of the Soviet Government. He had the freedom of movement. If a foreigner like Mr. Gupta had freedom in the Soviet Union the Soviet citizens also have that. How can we in this House, or the people in the Swatantra Party or the people in the SSP decide that there is no autonomy in the Soviet Union? You refer to classic books on the Soviet system, Soviet Communism by Sydney and Beatrice Webb which still remains the most classic exposition of the Soviet system done by somebody who is not a Communist, who is not a Soviet citizen but who commands the respect of all educated people throughout the English-speaking world for his erudition and knowledge. They have given a long list of autonomous organisations. So if there is an autonomous organisation which is able to run a radio service called Radio Peace and Progress—the name is very good; I love peace and I want progress but may be Mr. Mohta does not want it—how can we object? The explanation given by the Minister has to be accepted.

As far as the reference to the Supreme Court is concerned the Government has taken a certain attitude but, Sir, the fact remains that the Supreme Court was moved on the matter of bank nationalisation by a leader of the Swatantra Party, Mr. R.C. Cooper, and the whole case was argued by another pleader of the Swatantra Party, Mr. Palkhiwala. So why does the Swatantra Party fight shy of the statement that it contributed to the Supreme Court upsetting the bank nationalisation?

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : This again is a slur on the judiciary.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : He was saying that he argued the case there.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I must confess that I am a mere Indian and my knowledge of the Soviet Union or the methods of the Soviet Union is not as much as Mr. Arjun Arora's. I am prepared to take whatever he says as a man who knows more of the Soviet Union than I know but as an Indian I have got some feelings and I have got some questions to put to the hon. Minister. I am neither questioning the Soviet Union nor supporting the Voice of America or America; I am not bothered whether it is that Government or this Government. Here has come up one instance which Mr. Mohta has raised with reference to a matter about his own party which came in the Moscow Radio. Whatever may be the explanation given by the Minister and supported by my friend, Mr. Arjun Arora, I must confess that there is a feeling, and rightly so, that in the Soviet Union things are not as autonomous as they would appear to be. That being the case, I would like to ask the Minister, is it not the duty—to quote the words that he used yesterday—of every independent country to protect its citizens and politicians—politicians are also citizens—from the onslaught of foreign governments or foreign agencies or foreign organs? Within our country we may like each other or we may not like each other but certainly we are independent citizens of an independent sovereign country and is it not the duty of our government—suppress us, oppress us, do anything you like within the country—to protect its citizens? No government or any organ of a government of another country can cast aspersions or cast reflections or say things about the judiciary and the political leaders of India. If such a thing happens what is the Government going to do to prevent these things? May I also ask him another thing? I have got information that the Russian pressmen here in India are given many diplomatic privileges—may be right, may be it is not strictly necessary—and all that I want to know is whether the pressmen of any other country are also given the same status and diplomatic privileges. And the more important thing is what is the status of our Indian pressmen in Russia. That is a categorical question that I would ask the Minister.

There is a feeling—it is for the Government to remove it—among the political parties, especially the opposition parties here that the Government is not taking serious note of the objections made by all the political parties. The Government of India gets support from parties like the Communists, the DMK and they are not touched by the Russians, they are not touched by the Radio Peace and Progress, it is only the Jana Sangh, the Swatantra and the Congress (O) that are their targets. There seems to be some connection between the parties in coalition with the Indian Government and the way the Russians and the Radio Peace and Progress make comments. They comment only on these parties, I am not casting any aspersions but this is the feeling..

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Orissa) : You have your coalition and the Voice of America will support you.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : If the Voice of America were to do anything like this I will be with you to oppose the Voice of America, I guarantee you that. As was pointed out by the Home Minister they have got a majority but that majority is of some parties and those parties are not touched but why only these three parties. Because they believe in democracy? Apart from the impression that there is some connection between them, there is also the feeling that the Government of India does not protest to the Soviet Union or their protests are too weak because they are too dependant on the Soviet Union and the Government of India is directly dictated or controlled by Moscow. These are the feelings of the citizens of India, I hear them and as a Member of the House I have to bring them to the floor of the House. I ask, is it because the Government is controlled by Moscow that they are not able to protest or is it because that you are not really anxious or is it because of some internal relations between you and the Soviet Union and you are afraid that there will be some bad news. This is the feeling and I must honestly tell the Government about it. My feeling is that the Soviet Union, Moscow Radio and the Radio Peace and Progress are doing nothing but subverting democracy in this country, they are doing nothing but abusing political parties of this country. How

with our political parties and comment on our political leaders? We believe in democracy. If they think that in the name of Radio Peace and Progress they can do such a thing then we should also have opportunities of telling them what we think about Moscow. But we have a wonderful code in the AIR that we should not criticise a foreign Government especially if it is a friendly Government. And the Soviet Union is friendly. But may I very humbly ask whether the External Affairs Minister would tell the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and the Prime Minister that this AIR code should be erased and to give our political parties and political leaders some occasion to speak on the AIR and reply to them. If the Government cannot reply to these people will they at least erase this code which says that we should not say anything against any friendly power and allow us to reply to them?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब प्रारम्भ में रेडियो पीस एन्ड प्रोग्रेस के द्वारा हमारे कुछ राजनैतिक दलों की आलोचना होती थी तो सरकारी पक्ष के लोगों ने इस बात को रेलिश किया। मुझे खेद है कि माननीय अर्जुन अरोड़ा जी ने जिस ढंग से वकालत की है रूस के रेडियो पीस एन्ड प्रोग्रेस की, मैं चाहता था रूस की भी उसी प्रकार से आलोचना करते जिस प्रकार से उन्होंने वीइस आफ अमेरिका की आलोचना की। हमारे लिये दोनों समान होने चाहिये; अगर अमरीका हमारे लिये...

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : वाइस आफ अमेरिका की आप भी बुराई कीजिए।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं बिल्कुल बुराई करता हूँ, कन्डेम करता हूँ। हमारे लिये दोनों समान रूप से शत्रु हो सकते हैं, समान रूप से मित्र हो सकते हैं लेकिन हमें, केवल इस नाते से क्योंकि आपके दल की या गृट की रेडियो पीस एन्ड प्रोग्रेस तारीफ करता जा रहा है, आपको प्रोत्साहन देता जा रहा है, और इसलिये आपने इस रेडियो को हमारे आन्तरिक मामलों में भी हस्तक्षेप करने दिया और उम पर

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि मास्को रेडियो ने जब ऐसा किया तो हमने ऐतराज किया। लेकिन आपने ऐतराज तब किया जब सदन के अंदर यह प्रश्न आया, और सदस्यों ने इसके बारे में सुझाया, नहीं तो आप अपने आप यह नहीं करना चाहते थे और इतने दिन ऐतराज करने के बाद भी सभापति महोदय, अब तक रशियन गवर्नमेंट ने हमसे माफी नहीं मागी, न ही हमारी सरकार को जवाब देती क्योंकि वह जानती है कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार, या हिन्दुस्तान की कांग्रेस पार्टी जो सत्तारूढ़ है, वह हमारे खिलाफ जा नहीं सकती। इस प्रकार के महत्वपूर्ण मामले में जहाँ हमारे सुप्रीम कोर्ट की उन्होंने आलोचना की, उसके ऊपर भी रशन सरकार जवाब नहीं दे, माफी नहीं मागे, तो मुझ लगता है और क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बनाने को तैयार होंगे कि जब तक रशन गवर्नमेंट भारत सरकार से माफी नहीं मागेगी तब तक इस प्रश्न को खुला रखेंगे और तब तक रशन गवर्नमेंट के साथ जितने भी दूँडे रख से व्यवहार करना चाहिये उस तरह की कड़ाई का व्यवहार करने के लिये तैयार होंगे, जब तक वह माफी नहीं मागे।

उप सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार यह कह कर चलती है कि यह एक आटोमस बाडी है। हमारे भाई श्री अर्जुन अरोडा जी कहते हैं कि वहाँ सब लोगों को स्वतंत्रता है। रूस में कितनी स्वतंत्रता है या नहीं है, कम्युनिस्ट डिक्टेटोरशिप में कितनी स्वतंत्रता मिलती है, यह तो नहीं अनुभव और उसका मजा आ सकता है जब उसके नीचे चले जाये। हम जानते हैं कि जिन देशों में उन्होंने जिस ढंग से काम किया है, जिस जगह पर कम्युनिज्म आया है, जिस ढंग से डिक्टेटोरशिप आई, उसके बारे में सब लोग अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं। जिस जगह पर हम बोल रहे हैं, ससद् में हम आलोचना कर सकते हैं, लेकिन वहाँ पर उनकी सारी की सारी जवान न कर ले जाती है।

श्री अर्जुन अरोडा : वहाँ पर भी भाषण की स्वतंत्रता है। (Interruptions) बिरला यहाँ पर हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स निकाल सकते हैं लेकिन आप नहीं निकाल सकते हैं।

(Interruptions)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आप रूस से रुपया लेकर पैट्रियट और लिंक निकालते हैं हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर।

श्री अर्जुन अरोडा : मैं नहीं निकालता हूँ। पैट्रियट रूस से पैसा नहीं लेता है।

(Interruptions)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आप जो फेलो ट्रेवलर्स हैं, जो यंग टर्क्स कहे जाते हैं और रूस से कितना रुपया अरुणा आसफअली लाई है। हिन्दुस्तान के राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव के समय रूस की एम्बेसी कितना रुपया बैंक से निकालती है और वह रुपया फिर देश के अन्दर इस्तेमाल होता है, फिर भी आप लोग कहते हैं कि हम रूस की मदद नहीं करते हैं।

श्री अर्जुन अरोडा : यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है, मिथ्या बात है जो आपने कही है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैंने बिल्कुल सही बात कही है।

श्री अर्जुन अरोडा : यह मिथ्या बात है कि राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में ऐसा हुआ है। यह बहुत मिथ्या बात है और असंगत बात है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में पता लगा सकते हैं कि उस समय राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव के समय 13 अगस्त को रुपया निकाला गया या नहीं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) Please come to the point Those are irrelevant observations

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR I am coming to the point हरिलिवेट नहीं है। आज हिन्दुस्तान के आन्तरिक मामलों में वहाँ का रेडियो हस्तक्षेप कर रहा है और वह हमारा कि वहाँ से कागस की

सरकार को समर्थन मिल रहा है और इसीलिए सरकार भी विरोध नहीं करती है। इस तरह का डंडा बल आपके माथे पर भी आ सकता है। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हमारे रेडियो द्वारा इसी तरह से रूस के आन्तरिक मामलों में, वहाँ पार्टी के बीच जो झगड़े चलते हैं, ब्रेजनेव, कोसिगिन, सुसलॉव के बीच में अगर इन आपसी झगड़ों के बारे में हमारा रेडियो प्रचार करने लगे तो रूस को इस बारे में कैसा लगेगा और इस तरह की सारी आलोचना कैसे लगेगी। इस चीज़ को हमें इस नाते लेना चाहिये। आज रूस का रेडियो जनसंघ की आलोचना करता है और उसमें मंत्री राजी हो जाते हैं। अगर वह कल काँग्रेस की आलोचना करेगा तो क्या मंत्री राजी हो जायेंगे। हमको इस बात पर राजी नहीं होना चाहिए। क्योंकि हमारे जो झगड़े हैं, काँग्रेस या जनसंघ के जो झगड़े हैं, वे हमारे आन्तरिक झगड़े हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : The Minister has said that Moscow Radio is the Government Radio and the other, according to the version of the Government of Russia, is not the Government Radio.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं इस बात को मानने के लिए तैयार हूँ और हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार को इस बारे में प्रोटेस्ट करना चाहिये। यह जो रेडियो पास एन्ड प्रोग्रेस है उसको एक आटोनमस बाडी मानकर चलना, यह उचित नहीं है। जैसा कि अभी श्रीमती यशोदा रेड्डी जी ने कहा जिस तरह से वह आलोचना करता है उसी तरह से हम भी शुरू कर दें तो यह चीज़ बन्द हो जायेगी।

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I seek a clarification? If it is an autonomous body and if they are indulging in such broadcasts, why should it fall to the Government of India to have cyclostyled copies of their broadcasts—which are actually a slur on our own people—and distribute them? Is the Government of India working as a publicity agent of Radio Peace and Progress?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : उनके हक में करते हैं।

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We are not acting as publicity agents for anybody for that matter and I am afraid his information is completely wrong. It is not correct. Now, the hon. lady Member said that the Government of India should give protection to all our citizens. I agree with her wholeheartedly that it is the Government's primary duty, but it all depends. Protection against what? I have already said that if anything is said or done outside this country, which goes against our national interests or which is tantamount to interference in our internal affairs, we will certainly take up the matter with the country concerned. It is our primary duty and we are prepared to do it. As I have already explained in regard to broadcasts from Radio Peace and Progress, we have protested not only once, but three or four times. Their reply has been given to us and we have to accept that reply. It is an autonomous organisation and it has a right to criticise and a right to say whatever it likes.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : That is exactly the point. They have protested, but what effect has it had on them? Is the Government going to do something?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The reply has been given to us. We have protested and we have brought it to their notice. They always say that it is an autonomous organisation and they have a right to criticise political parties and put forward their viewpoint, as we have, in this country, a right to criticise the Russian policies. In our papers, in our Press, everywhere you will find criticism of Russia every day. So, in the same way . . .

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : That is exactly the difference.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The whole thing is this . . .

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. N. MISHRA) : Our papers do not belong to the State. The analogy is completely incorrect. These are the State organs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Mr. Mishra, their contention, the Soviet contention is that this Radio does not belong to them.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Moscow Radio does not belong to them?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Not the Moscow Radio, but the Radio Peace and Progress.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Is not Moscow Radio doing as much damage to the political parties and the leaders? Even with regard to the Radio Peace and Progress one cannot put in the plea that it is not a State organ.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, this is a matter of opinion. The main point here is whether Radio Peace and Progress is a Government organisation or it is an independent, autonomous body. We have been told by the Russian Government that it is an autonomous organisation and as I said earlier on we have to accept that explanation. Now, anything emanating from Radio Peace and Progress which we consider objectionable and an interference in our internal affairs, I have said we take it up with the Russian Government. We have said that it is undesirable and this should not be done, but they always take the plea that this kind of a criticism is bound to come from an autonomous body, as do criticisms from other stations and countries all over the world, and we should not really mind it. But if anything critical or anything which goes against our national interest is expressed in disparaging terms by Radio Moscow, then it certainly has to be taken seriously by the Russian Government, but we find that in their broadcasts so far nothing has been said to which we can take objection, except the reference to the Supreme Court. We have told them that we did not like it and we have brought it to the notice of the Russian authorities. We are awaiting their reaction and their reply.

Then the hon. lady Member asked if any diplomatic privileges are given to the Russian journalists in this country. This is not correct. We do not give any privileges to the Russian journalists, nor do our journalists in Russia enjoy these privileges. Then, she asked: Is the Indian Government under the control

of the USSR? Sir, this I deny with all the emphasis at my command. It is a very unfair allegation. We are not under the control of any Government, whether Russian or American or any other Government in the world for that matter. We are an independent country. We have an independent policy and we are not under the pressure of anybody. We take decisions on our own.

About AIR it is something I am not competent to give any reply. This is a matter to which the ministry concerned can only reply. This can be brought to their notice later on. The hon. Member who asked the question last said that we should protest against the broadcasts by Radio Peace and Progress. I have already explained that we have done that. I think this just about covers all the points.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : One clarification which I have not been able to get . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : On a point of order, under the rules, in a Half-an-hour Discussion, only those who . . .

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Why do you want to prevent my clarification ?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Let me complete my point of order. Under the rules in a Half-an-hour Discussion only those Members who have given their names earlier can ask for clarifications. You read out the list of names. By chance Mr. S. N. Mishra's name was not there. Have we reached a stage that, when all Members are equal, Mr. S. N. Mishra is more equal ? If You follow the rules, Mr. S. N. Mishra must miss this opportunity and as a senior Member, as the Leader of the biggest opposition group, he must respect the rules, follow them and set a good example.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : My question has not been answered.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : I hope Mr. Mishra, a very respected and esteemed friend of ours and the Leader of the Opposition, will appreciate that there is much in the objection that has been raised by Mr. Arjun Arora.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Has it not been the practice in the past to seek clarifications or elucidations ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : But your name is not here.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : No. I do concede that should have given my name. I wanted only one Member to participate in the discussion and, therefore, the hon. Member, Shrimati Yashoda Reddy, had spoken on this. I am only asking you whether I can seek some elucidation or clarification on the statement made by the hon. Minister or not. What I am trying to make out—I would not take more than half a minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : I permit you.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : One point on which the hon. Minister was not clear was this : He said that the autonomy relates to certain organisations which had been formed by some individuals or a group of individuals. But this autonomy relates to an organisation which had been formed by the Government. Of course autonomy may relate to even a governmental organisation and hence also the whole origin and inspiration are derived from the Government. They are not derived from any individual or group of individuals who are completely free. If they derive the origin and inspiration from the Government, what kind of autonomy relates to this organisation which is called Radio Peace and Progress? Should that fact weigh with the Government here in not lodging a protest against Radio Peace and Progress? I do concede, as I have said earlier that there can be governmental organisations which can be autonomous, but let it be conceded too that this is a governmental organisation which is enjoying autonomy; not that this autonomy relates to any organisation formed by an individual or a group of individuals. For instance, we have formed so many corporations, they are autonomous corporations but still they are Government corporations; they are not private corporations. There can be no private corporation or autonomous organisation in the U.S.S.F. because there is no private property in that sense.

The second thing on which I am not quite clear is—probably the hon. Minister has given the reply but I was not able to

get it—Radio Moscow by any description is a State organisation, its nature cannot be interpreted in any other way; did he say—I was not able to get it—that Radio Moscow has not made any broadcasts in which the leaders of political parties here had been criticised although in some Supreme Court has been? Did he check on this that Radio Moscow has not criticised the political parties or their leaders here? Did he check on this?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : May I answer the last question first? On the basis of the information in my possession up to the present moment and from what I have been able to find out Radio Moscow has not criticised any individuals. It has criticised to a certain extent political parties and has given its assessment. It has called political parties as being radical, being reactionaries, rightists, and so on. But individuals have not been criticised nor the policy of the Government. The hon. Member's question is whether this Radio has criticised political leaders or not.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : No, no. The political parties and their leaders.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As regards political parties I have already said that.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Let it be on record that they have criticised political parties.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I said this. This is a criticism to which we do not take any objection. We do not consider it objectionable. It has to be qualified . . .

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : You have to take objection to that. No State organ should criticise political parties. That constitutes an interference in our internal affairs.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : That is the hon. Member's view. I cannot say anything on that. The official view is that whatever has been said by Radio Moscow is something to which we cannot take objection. They have certainly said something about political parties. They have said nothing about individual leaders of political parties.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : Peculiar point.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The other thing was about the autonomy of Radio Peace and Progress. I have explained that point earlier. Perhaps the hon. Member did not hear. This Radio Peace and Progress is not a governmental organisation. It is an autonomous organisation in the sense that it is run by individuals in the Soviet Union. It is run by an association of writers, political commentators, and the like who are not Government functionaries.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : What are its origin and inspiration? I asked you who has formed it.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We have to see facts as they are. This is an organisation run by a group of individuals, and the Russian Government says that it has no influence over them. They are independent of it. That is what is there to it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : He says it is not under the Government.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : The only factual basis on which we can judge it is from where the inspiration has come and who

has formed this organisation. Therefore, I asked what are the origin and inspiration of this organisation, whether they are derived from any individual or a group of individuals.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Inspiration comes from those individuals who organised this thing.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : My question has not been answered. I asked why AIR'S Monitoring Service is acting as publicity agent for Radio Peace and Progress and circulating its handout.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It does not concern my Ministry. I cannot say anything about it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : You take note of it and communicate to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Monday.

The House then adjourned at forty six minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 11th May, 1970.