

MR. CHAIRMAN : She has the good wishes of the whole House.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : May I say that I went to the hospital with a good deal of anxiety? I am happy she is all right and I wish her very very long life and many more terms in Rajya Sabha.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SHIFT THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning, and Works, Housing and Urban Development to the reported decision of the Government to shift the proposed location of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi from India Gate to some other place.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : Sir, Government have had under consideration, for some time, the question of a suitable site for a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Capital. They naturally regard it to be a matter of high importance that the statue of Gandhiji should be located at the most important and appropriate site for the purpose, consistent with the unique position which he enjoys in our national life, as well as aesthetic and other considerations.

It had been earlier decided that the statue of Mahatma Gandhi be installed at the site near India Gate where formerly stood the statue of King George V. Certain views were expressed by a Committee composed of experts and some of Gandhiji's close followers. In the light of their views, a revised decision was taken. Government continue to be firmly of the view that if any statue is to be installed at this particular site, it should be that of Mahatma Gandhi and no other. However, in view of the fact that a large number of people, including experts as well as many Honourable Members of Parliament have expressed varying views on the question of a suitable site for Gandhiji's statue, Government have decided that leaders of political parties

will hear the experts and others and Government will then take final decision in consultation with the leaders.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members will please remember that only a few days ago they unanimously expressed their views on this matter. Now I have got a long list of Members who have moved this calling attention motion. I suggest that I may select, as I selected yesterday but a larger number today, out of the names which are before me. In view of the statement made to the effect that the leaders' views will be taken into consideration by the Government, I may make this selection and I hope the House will agree with me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shrimati Rajagopalan. Let the questions be short.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : I am really surprised at the statement made by the hon. Minister saying that they have decided to have it installed at India Gate. They say that is the proper place but at the same time they also say that they are going to consult experts and others and then they will take a final decision. I do not understand this at all; the two statements are contradictory.

Another thing, Mr. Chairman, is that India Gate is the proper place for the installation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and repeatedly in this House Mr. Shah has given the assurance that it will be installed at India Gate where we are celebrating the Republic Day year after year and where the grand glories of British Imperialism, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Parliament and Secretariat Buildings are standing. It is the appropriate place to have the statue of Mahatma Gandhi so that the people who come to witness the Republic Day will always remember that it was he who brought freedom to the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is quite clear.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : May I also know in this context whether the Minister will clearly state the position because he says this is the appropriate place and at the same time he says he will consult the experts? Let him give a clear and categorical answer as to whether he is going to instal it there or not.

[Shrimati Lalitha Rajagopalan]

After this, Mr. Chairman, I have also a second question to ask.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : I do not know why the hon. Member should be excited on this question because I have a right to come back to my masters and place before them if another point of view has to be brought before them for their consideration.

A Committee was appointed for the purpose and I will give you the names of the members of the Committee.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : There was some recommendation of the Committee, is it not ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : The Committee recommended that the matter may be brought to the notice of Members of Parliament after the Cabinet has considered it. The Committee consisted of Mr. M. L. Nanda, Mr. S. K. Joglekar, Mr. Brij Kishen Chandiwala, Mr. Devendra Kumar Gupta, representing the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Mr. B. C. Sanyal of Lalit Kala Akademi, Mr. J. R. Bhalla, Chairman Indian Institute of Architects and Mr. Rahman. They said : please convey our views; you may keep this site for the purpose of some emblem. They said that a site near the children's park may be selected so that the traffic which goes round there may not prevent those who want to go to the Gandhi statue. Secondly since we want to put up a twice life size statue of Mahatma Gandhi they say the view will be obstructed by the India Gate. And thirdly they say that the canopy will have to be removed. All these things were there and we also thought that we should bring it before Parliament. If you think, after hearing them, the same site should be selected, we have no objection. This cannot be a decision of Government alone. Mahatma Gandhi belongs to the nation, to all parties, and the decision should be of all the parties. On this point we have no doubt whatsoever and therefore there should be no worry. This site is reserved for Mahatma Gandhi and nobody else.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : Sir, I have one more question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Now let others also have a chance.

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैंने पहली तारीख के हिन्दुस्तान में मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य को पढ़ा है। उन्होंने लोक सभा में वक्तव्य दिया है कि पहले आपने एक कमेटी नियुक्त की थी, अब कई संसद सदस्यों की समिति और नियुक्त करने जा रहे हैं। मैं सोचती हूँ जैसे किसी काम को टालने के लिये समितियाँ नियुक्त की जाती हैं वैसे ही यह एक काम को टालने की बात है। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या गांधी शताब्दी के अंदर ही यह मूर्ति इंडिया गेट पर स्थापित हो जायेगी। और क्या इसको जल्दी स्थापित करने का और मूर्ति के निर्माण करने का कार्य शुरू कर दिया गया है और यदि हाँ तो मैं धन्यवाद देती हूँ और यदि नहीं, तो उसमें विलम्ब क्यों हो रहा है ?

श्री के० के० शाह : जब यह सवाल खड़ा हुआ था तब मैं ने कहा था कि इसमें थोड़ी देरी लगेगी। साइमलटेनियसली टेन्डर मंगवा लो और टेन्डर मंगाकर आर्किटेक्ट नियुक्त कर दो। 3 आर्किटेक्ट नियुक्त किये गये हैं और एक कमेटी स्टेच्यू को लगाने के बारे में नियुक्त की गई है। अगर उनके नाम चाहते हैं तो दे सकता हूँ। The names of the sculptors selected by the Sub-Committee are :—

Mr. B. C. Sanyal,
Mr. B. V. Wagh,
Mr. Sadashiv Sathe,
Mr. P. Das Gupta,
Mr. Ram Kinkar Vaish,
Mr. Kewal Soni Cultan,
Mr. D. P. Roy Choudhari,

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे एक प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया। मैंने यह पूछा था कि क्या गांधी शताब्दी वर्ष के अन्दर अन्दर यह मूर्ति स्थापित हो जायेगी।

श्री के० के० शाह : जब मैंने चार्ज लिया था तब मैंने साइमलटेनियसली टेन्डर मंगवाने के लिए कहा था और कहा था कि यह मूर्ति it should be on the 2nd of October, 1969 लेकिन मुझसे उन्होंने कहा कि इतनी जल्दी नहीं कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने मुझे यह आश्वासन दिया कि 2 अक्टूबर 1970 से पहले हम यह काम पूरा कर देंगे।

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh) : May I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for shifting their decision from time to time? As evident from the question answered in this House as far back as the 19th February, 1969 in reply to a question of Mr. Sitaram Jaipuria, the Deputy Home Minister, Mr. K. S. Ramaswamy, categorically replied like this : A decision has already been taken that a statue of Mahatma Gandhi will be erected at India Gate at Government expense. When such a categorical assurance had been given to the House, I would like to know from the Minister why there has been hesitation in implementing the decision which had been arrived at and communicated to this august House. I would like to know whether the Government wants to give up in this the Gandhi Centenary Year the very idea of erecting a statue, as Gandhiji wanted that the Congress should be wound up after independence.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : My hon. friend is always very considerate. When an answer was given categorically, there is no question of giving it up. He can be rest assured.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Why all this 'hulla' about it if there is no change? Go ahead and see that the statue is installed at that place.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I have said that. If you do not change your decision, it will be installed at that place, but I cannot deny the experts and close followers of Mahatma Gandhi a chance to come before me. Would it be right for me? Then, I would be blamed that I did not listen to them and I did not bring them before you and thus spoil the entire idea of having a statue. In saying it they were unanimous. I am not an architect. When famous architects like Mr. Devendra Kumar Gupta, Mr. Braj Kishen Chandiwala, Mr. Sanyal, Mr. Bhalla and Mr. Rahman—each

one of them deserves consideration singly—said this and when all of them were unanimous, I said : "All right, Baba, let us invite tenders first. Simultaneously I will give you an opportunity" . . .

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : What does he mean by "Baba"? This is not the way.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : All right, you say 'Baa', not "Baba".

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Therefore, as I have said, there is no question of giving it up. There is no question of changing the site. There is no question of giving the site to anybody, if you keep to your decision. Therefore, I am asking for a meeting immediately.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : What is the modus operandi? Will the Minister tell us what is the modus operandi....

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. How many questions will Mr. Bhargava put? You did not allow me a second question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैं श्रीमान् मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि कैबिनेट के मंत्रियों ने, मंत्रालय ने और इन सदस्यों की जो समिति बनी हुई थी उसने, प्रधान मंत्री के रोब में आकर यह बात स्वीकार कर ली थी कि उस स्थान पर स्वर्गीय जवाहर लाल नेहरू की स्टेच्यू लगाई जाय और इसीलिए विभिन्न प्रकार के बहाने किये जा रहे हैं। अगर यह बात सही है तो आप यह बतलाने का कष्ट कीजियेगा कि जब इस जगह पर महात्मा गांधी जी की मूर्ति लगाने के लिये तैयार हो गई थी तो फिर उसको वहां पर लगाने में देरी क्यों की जा रही है?

श्री के० के० शाह : कभी ऐसा सजेशन नहीं आया। पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू की मूर्ति तीन मूर्ति मार्ग के ऊपर पक्की हो गई है। अब यह सवाल उठता ही नहीं है। एक सजेशन

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

यह था कि राजपथ पर एक बाजू पर स्वर्गीय राजेंद्र प्रसाद जी की और दूसरे बाजू पर स्वर्गीय जवाहर लाल नेहरू की मूर्ति स्थापित की जाय, मगर यह बात भी मंजूर नहीं की गई। तीन मूर्ति में जहां स्वर्गीय जवाहर लाल नेहरू का मेमोरियल बना हुआ है वहां पर उनकी मूर्ति लगाई जायेगी। मेरी समझ में आपने एक अच्छा सवाल किया और इसके लिए मैं आपका शुक्र गुजार हूँ। एक हवा इस बारे में किसी ने बना दी है और यह हवा पोलिटिकल क्वेश्चन बनाकर ख्वाह-म-ख्वाह उठाई जा रही है। (Interruptions) अगर आप इस बारे में मुझ से पूछ लेते तो मैं आपको जवाब दे देता।

SHRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh) : The hon. Minister has said that tenders have been called. I really fail to understand why tenders have been called for. Is it for the statue or for the pedestal? After all you cannot have tenders for an art that is called a statue. There is no system of tender as far as the statue is concerned. Only the topmost artists will present their work and then you will select from them. Therefore the term 'tender' is derogatory even in this connection. It is derogatory to the great man and to the artist. If you give it to the lowest tender, then it is a serious matter. You cannot have a wall. It is a statue, where tenders are not admissible. They are not dignified. That term is not dignified. Government should take this word out of it.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : When I said 'tenders' you may object to the word. what we are inviting are models. We have agreed to pay to those who will prepare it. If we do not select the model out of the eight or ten, it will cost them a lot. It is quite clear now that we will pay them.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must say that the House will take the most serious objection to the dilatory way adopted by the Government in this matter. The explanations given by the Minister are, to say the least, shocking and they cannot convince any person. The question that I want to ask is : Why was it thought

necessary to appoint a committee surreptitiously after the first committee was disbanded? After all the appointment of a second committee could have been only with the object of implementing the decisions of the original committee as accepted by the Cabinet. The second committee could not be the mother of a new and original suggestion. That could not have been the intention of appointing a second committee. My question is, why was the second committee surreptitiously appointed and why has this committee overstepped its limits? What I would like to say is this. If it is conceded that the most prominent and important place in New Delhi could be only the India Gate, we want nothing to come in the way of the installation of the statue at the most important place. Now, we also heard that there is now a third committee going to be appointed. This Government seems to be a Government of committees and, therefore, of gross indecision. In this matter it is not only indecision, but I must say it is wilful neglect of duty. Why a third committee, of which Shri Gajendragadkar happens to be the Chairman, has been appointed? I really do not know why some persons are supposed to be of universal blood that they can fit into any committee, be it a law committee, be it an integration committee or a riots committee. Some persons are going to be fitted into all kinds of committees. Mr. Chairman, we just do not recognise the existence of any other Committee and we would like the decision of the original Committee, of which the hon. Member, Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha, was a member and there was another member from the other House—we would like the decision of that Committee to be implemented, the decision as accepted by the Cabinet of that Committee to be implemented. The Minister has said that the India Gate would come in the way. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been installed in all the important capitals of the world at the highest place. The pedestal could be raised. After all we have to take a decision about the India Gate which is an ugly thing of brick and mortar. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi would be at a much higher pedestal so that the India Gate does not come in the way. We do not understand the plea that has been put forward by the Government. The plea is really most shocking. The House would like to make it clear that it would not reconcile itself to the installation of the statue at any

other place than his, and we do not recognise the existence of any other Committee in this matter.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : The hon. Leader of the Opposition, I thought, would not allow his thoughts to be influenced by anger. If thoughts are to be influenced by anger...

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : If this could not be the cause for anger, I think there is nothing else in the world which can cause one anger.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Because to arrogate to ourselves the duty of an architect or the duty of an expert can only happen when you are angry; otherwise it cannot happen.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : The first Committee also contained architects.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Since the Leader of the Opposition is saying it, I should be as mild and as polite as I can. Therefore, in all humility may I request him to remember that the first Committee that decided the site. When the site was decided, the Government had to appoint a Committee to fix up the statue. The Committee which was appointed... (*Interruption*) I thought you would not lose your patience. Therefore, this Committee which was appointed was the Committee for deciding the statue. I do agree with you that there was no question of stealthily appointing anything. So far as their function was concerned, while deciding the statue they realised the difficulties... (*Interruption*) Just listen. When the size of the statue became twice the life size, they realised that there was a canopy and the canopy should be removed.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : The choice is clear. The canopy has to be demolished.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : If the canopy should be removed, a number of other arguments arose about people going there, about India Gate obstructing the view, all these valid points. When they were presented, there was nothing wrong in simultaneously inviting models for the statue and making preparations and coming once more before and giving you an opportunity of knowing what the experts say. You may not change your decision. Nobody wants you to change it. But just as the oppo-

sition criticism is intended to give a warning so that we may not commit a mistake—that is how we take the criticism of the opposition—in the same way the experts' opinion should also be taken into consideration by wise people so that in re-examining a decision we may not commit a mistake in the matter of a statue of such importance, so that the generations to come may not find fault with us. What is wrong in that? I hope the Leader of the Opposition will reconsider these points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lokanath Misra. He is not here.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY (Tamil Nadu) : I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you later. Your name is not here. Those whose names are not on the list, I have put them down later.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : Please put down my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are in the Congress or outside?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I am very much in the Congress.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you are in the Congress, I have exhausted the Congress list. Shri Dwijendralal Sen Gupta. Not here. Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

डा० भाई महावीर (दिल्ली) : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से एक बात जान सकता हूँ कि उस स्टेचू का आकार लाइफ-साइज से दुगुना हो यह किस स्टेज पर तय किया गया? उस स्टेज पर तय करते समय क्या उस बात का ध्यान नहीं रखा जा सका कि किस जगह पर यह लगनी है पहले वह जगह तय हो चुकी है और उस जगह पर उसी आकार का स्टेचू लगना चाहिए जो वहाँ के उपयुक्त है अर्थात् क्या बड़े आकार के कारण उस स्थान को छोड़ा जायगा या उस स्थान के लिए आकार को अनुकूल बनाया जायगा?

दूसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बात में कोई सच्चाई है कि यह भी राय चलाई गई है कि गांधी जी सन्तों थे, गांधीजी कोई राजा नहीं थे और जो वह साइट है,

[डा० भाई महावीर]

जहां जार्ज पंचम की स्टेचू थी वह राजा के लायक है, राजा या राज-पद पर रहे व्यक्ति के लिए उपयुक्त रहेगी उस टीमटाम और आडम्बर में एक सन्त को लाकर बिठाना उसके साथ अन्याय करना है? क्या इस राय के आधार पर जो विशेषज्ञ हैं, कलाकार हैं उन्होंने अपना मत दिया अथवा केवल आकार और उस स्थान के मेल के न बैठने के कारण यह कठिनाई उपस्थित हुई है?

श्री के० के० शाह: पहला सवाल किया कि स्टेचू का साइज कौन सा होना चाहिए? इसके लिए कमेटी बैठ गई। हमने आपको बिना पूछे कोई निर्णय किया होता या उस निर्णय में आपसे पूछे बिना कोई फर्क किया होता तो आप गुस्सा होते और वह बात मेरी समझ में आती लेकिन...

डा० भाई महावीर: मैं शायद समझा नहीं सका। मेरा प्रश्न था कि एक स्थान का विषय है और एक आकार का विषय है, स्थान का निर्णय कब हुआ और आकार का निर्णय कब हुआ?

श्री के० के० शाह: जब स्थान के बारे में सोचने लगे तो पहले जैसा आपने कहा गांधीजी एक साधु पुरुष थे और साधु पुरुष का राजा की जगह बैठना, ऐसा नहीं उन्होंने उल्टा कहा है, गांधी जी यहां पर बैठें जरूर लेकिन वह राजा की छतरी न रखी जाय।

श्री शाम नन्वन मिश्र: सिर नहीं काटेंगे उसमें बिठाने के लिए।

श्री के० के० शाह: अगले हफ्ते सबको बुलाने वाले हैं, डिसीजन 15 दिन में हो जायगा आपके डिसीजन में चेंज नहीं होगा, लेकिन जिम्मेदारी मेरी नहीं रहेगी। मुझे आपके सामने कई चीजें रखनी थीं, वह नहीं रखा सकी थीं इसके सिवा मुझे कोई चिन्ता नहीं थी। जिस जगह भी रखिए, आप मालिक हैं।

Gandhiji belongs to all and it must be a decision of all, not of one man.

जिन्होंने डिसीजन लिया था उनको भी बुलाने वाले हैं और अगर यह किसी को अपील नहीं करता तो इसमें चेंज नहीं करेंगे।

दूसरी बात आपने कही स्टेचू के साइज के बारे में। स्टेचू किस साइज क्या होना चाहिए यह तय करने के लिए जिनको दिया गया था उन बेचारों को इतना हक्क तो है कि यह बताएं कि कैसा साइज होना चाहिए। आप मानें, न मानें, यह आपकी बात है।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): The reported decision of the Government to shift the site does not look to be so innocent and innocuous. There seems to be a deep design in Government decision to shift the site. A Committee of experts was appointed on which Members of Parliament were represented, the Chief Government Architect was there, the Delhi Development Authority was there, all concerned interests were there on that Committee, and they gave a unanimous report that this was the best site where Gandhiji's statue should be located. Mr. Ganga Sharan Sinha was a member of that Committee, and this Committee gave a report, I think, nearly two or three years back, but in spite of this unanimous report of the Committee the Government is wavering. They once decided that it should be located at that place. But now after second thoughts they are thinking of shifting this site. There seems to be some design behind the whole thing. It is a very important place, a very prominent place where the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi's statue should be erected. And people will not take it so lying down if the Government wants to shift the location of the statue from the India Gate to any other place. The Government may come forward and say that this—may be a central place. But it is a small place. Many thousands of people would like to worship Mahatma Gandhi. The place will not be sufficient. There is the Raj Ghat for worship. Here is a place where we would like to see the statue of the Father of the Nation erected. Whenever the worship takes place, when lakhs of people gather there, they would like to see the statue of the Father of the Nation erected there. There cannot be any excuse for the indecision on the part of the Government. There seems to be some dilatory tactics on the part of the Government

in shifting the entire location of the statue from this place to some other place. We cannot condone the Government's delay in this matter. They should take an immediate decision and all these Committees which have been set up should be dispensed with and should not be allowed to function.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : When suspicion dethrones reason, justice cannot be had. I am trying to expel suspicion so that I can have justice. Unless you have some overt act which can make you doubt the *bona fides* of the Government, it is not proper to go on being guided by considerations of suspicion. I have made the position abundantly clear. You are the master. You will take your own decision. Government have no intention of even influencing your decision.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Sir, he is changing the position. In one case he says that he is an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi, that he is a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and therefore he wants to change the position. It is unfair, Sir.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN (Nominated) : I realise that I am speaking in a House heavily loaded in its mind in one direction and perhaps rightly. What has now come into the picture is the opinion of what is called an Expert Body. Sir, you and I know what expert bodies are. Expert bodies also will toe the line. So, let nobody frighten us with an expert body's opinion. I myself am no expert but I am going to give an opinion contrary to the loaded mind of this House. I do not wish under any circumstances Gandhi's statue to stand where King George's statue stood. They are taking away statues of Rulers and dignitaries of those days. But to put Mahatma Gandhi's statue in a place where King George's statue stood is something that I do not wish to see taking place. (Interruptions) Please hear me. You have had your say. Secondly, that is the place where the Republic parade takes place year after year. Tanks will be rolling, troops will be marching and army jets will be zooming overhead. I do not want Mahatma Gandhi to stand there, in a place of that kind. I am not one who thinks that Mahatma Gandhi was a sadhu. If anybody thinks that Mahatma Gandhi was a sadhu, he

does not know a sadhu and he does not know Mahatma Gandhi. You may call him a Raj Rishi if you like. But just as a decision has now been announced—I hope it is a firm one—that Pandit Nehru's statue will stand in front of his great memorial at Tin Murti, I want that Gandhi's statue should stand in a magnificent circle which we can create at Raj Ghat itself...

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN : You can say, "no, no" a hundred times. But I will say what is in my mind. Therefore, in view of the fact that King George stood there, in view of the fact that the Republic parade will be going on there with all the military paraphernalia and in view of the fact that we have already built a magnificent Gandhi complex at Raj Ghat—I think it would be a wonderful circle there—Gandhi's statue there would be far more appropriate.

I have only one more thought to add. The Government appears to be vacillating or shifting its ground. I do not believe that they are doing it with any ulterior motive at all. But this idea of the experts guiding you is something which I do not accept. I know experts. So, let us not be frightened by them. But let us look at it in a totally new way altogether, in the way that I have suggested.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I entirely disagree with the suggestion put forward by Mr. Ramachandran now.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Have you seen the site?

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : I have seen the site. I do not want our Father of the Nation to be in a grave-yard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He means 'samadhi'.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : It must be a place which is very important in the Capital City. When the Father of the Nation laid down his life for this nation, a very wise suggestion came from Tamil Nadu which is that India, our country, should be renamed as Gandhia. We have not done it. We

[Shri Thillai Villalan]

have failed to do that. We have committed a blunder. But, Sir, we have another opportunity now to show that we are still grateful to the Father of the Nation in his Centenary Year. A golden opportunity is now before us. We must select a very important place in the Capital City, that is New Delhi. India Gate is a very important place in this city. It is in the heart of the city. Therefore, my suggestion would be that the statue of the Father of the Nation should be installed only at the India Gate. At the same time, my another request is this. When the statue is installed, I would request this Government, at least now to take steps to rename India Gate as Gandhia Gate.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY : Having listened to different views on the subject, may I point out that India Gate symbolises the entrance to India, in the Capital. I should think that Mahatma Gandhi who was the central figure in the contemporary history and politics of this country should not be at the outer fringe of India but right in the very centre of India, in the very centre of the Capital of India. The statue should be erected in some prominent place where thousands and millions of people would pass and pay homage to him. India Gate is so far out of Delhi that only people with cars, people who can afford taxis, would be able to pass that place. So, I suggest that Mahatma Gandhi's statue be placed in a very central place in Delhi so that people passing to and fro every day may be able to pay their homage to him.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh) : I would not like to agree with Mr. Ramachandran's viewpoint on this question for one thing. I never thought that Gandhiji never wanted the tanks of the Army roll by the India Gate because they are there to defend the country. I never thought that Gandhiji was against defending the country.

Another thing I would like to say is that Gandhiji should be there to keep a watch over all that is going on in the Secretariat here and the Parliament House. He should not be relegated to Rajghat. At least if the Government forgets about Gandhiji and his teachings and if the Ministers do not appreciate them, while they pass through the Rajpath they would be able to look at the statue of Gandhiji and remember

for once that there was a man called Gandhiji who advocated that the people of this country should be ruled with humility, without corruption and that even the poorest man in this country should come up to a level where he can say that he is living a happy life. So with this intention I would have thought that the Government would have taken the decision to have that statue at the India Gate and then instructed an experts' committee to model a statue which would fit that place. Instead of that, we are having the reverse. Expert committees are appointed to have a statue which does not fit the place. That is what I gather from what has happened. Therefore, I would like to have an assurance from the Government here and now that a statue would be erected there, and then an expert committee would be appointed to find out the exact size and the form of the statue that would fit that place. I do not think it will affect the traffic or anything of that sort because India Gate is already there. And if India Gate can stand there, the statue of Mahatma Gandhi can also be there and nothing would affect the traffic.

Another point that I would like to make is this. I do not want to go into the controversy of what was the intention of the Government in not taking a firm decision on the location of Gandhiji's statue. There may or may not be motives. But a suspicion has been aroused in this country. To allay that suspicion the Government should have made a forthright declaration that the statue would be erected there.

Apart from that, I would request the Government not only to think of Gandhiji's statue but also of the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at a prominent location near the Parliament House.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, may I put a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is not on the List. I have got here names of representatives of parties. Your name is not there.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : This is a matter of national importance and it must be looked at from that perspective. It is not just an emotional matter to be discussed . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree that on every important subject you can make a contribution. There I agree.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have to make one little point. I differ with my friend, Mr. Murahari. If Gandhiji in flesh and blood could not correct these gentlemen of the Congress Party, how in bronze is he going to correct them, I cannot understand. However, that is beside the point.

Now, Sir, over this matter there should be a national consensus. Over this matter we should avoid controversy, and controversy is avoidable provided those in authority handle the problem before them wisely and in a discreet manner. Unfortunately, a controversy has arisen where as it should not have arisen because over this matter, whatever may be our other differences, we would not needlessly differ. We would come to an agreement as to which is the most suitable place in Delhi for the statue of Mahatma Gandhi to be installed, how it should be installed. A basic decision we can take. It is no use bringing in experts here. This is a moral and national question. In the case of those who have made history, those who are trusted by the people and are now occupying positions of authority like Members of Parliament, they should come to a unanimous decision. Therefore, Sir, I still hope that a consensus would be arrived at. It is possible that Dr. Ramachandran may have a divergent point of view. We need not deny him because we do not know where, if Gandhiji himself would have been asked where he would like his statue to be erected, he would have put it in his testament. I do not know because I do not understand architecture very much. If Mr. Ramachandran has expressed an opinion like that let us respect it. But the general feeling is entirely different. The consensus is that Gandhiji's statue must be in the most prominent place, in the heart of the city, in the capital of India. If he were a challenge to the British power, the location of his statue must itself be a sort of challenge, reminding that we wiped the British away from this country. That is how I view this matter. Now, Mr. Ramachandran has thought about tanks, armies and so many things. I am sure tanks and the army will not do as much harm as the corruption prevalent here. That I can tell you. The fact remains that Delhi is the capital of India and Parliament, the seat of power, is here where there are all sorts of corrupt men. Also good men can be here if they want to be

good. Therefore, Sir, this vicinity is the most important vicinity. Let us decide about it first.

Secondly, once we come to this conclusion that Rajpath is the central place, then India Gate is the most suitable place. You cannot dispute that. Once we come to that conclusion other things follow automatically. Therefore, it is more or less the settled decision of the nation that Gandhiji's statue should be there.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : In this matter the whole House is practically unanimous.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Now a question has arisen whether Gandhiji's statue can be at a place where the statue of King George V was there at one time. Well, the canopy has to go. Gandhiji does not fit in under a canopy. But the other thing should not be made an issue. After all, are we not sitting where once the Britishers sat? It reminds us of our freedom struggle. The British people used to sit in these benches. Blessed Maharajahs in the old days used to sit here with their turbans on their head. Are we not sitting here? Therefore, on that score there is no difficulty.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : You are successors to those Maharajahs.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Therefore, there is no difficulty that way. The question to decide is which is the appropriate place from the point of view of past history, history today, and, what is more, from the point of view of tomorrow. We want Gandhiji's statue to project into the future, which is yet to unveil itself. Hence we must place it in a central place where one can recall the past history, what we have left behind and where also we have a perspective of the future. So this is the central point. This is the crux of the whole thing.

With regard to other matters, discuss this thing. I am not an architect. I cannot give an opinion. I cannot say what should be the length or the size of the statue. Somebody might propose some thing somewhere and somebody else might propose some other thing. I do not want to go into the details of it whether the thing should be near a particular point or there should be another point nearby. But, by and

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

large, that is the place. By and large, this is the centre and the statue must be there.

Now I should like to make a proposal. I think Government's decision is good in the sense that they will consult all leaders of the Opposition parties also. I am very glad that sense should have dawned upon them. It should have dawned upon you before. But you are always a few years too late. Now, we the leaders of the Opposition parties together represent the will of the nation. They will bring to you the will of the nation, the views of the nation. Pool them together and put the statue within a definite time. I want a time limit to be fixed by when the decision will be finally taken. Having taken that political, moral and national decision, call your architects and ask them to implement it. That should be the approach. We should not sit behind architects, much as we respect them. Therefore, the Government should give a clear assurance with regard to the time and the manner in which the decision will be taken. A national consensus has got not only to be evolved—it is already there—but it has to be accepted by the Government and implemented. And I think if that is the approach, then there need be no controversy over it.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : I would request the Minister that the decision should be taken before the House adjourns in this session. We must finalise it before that.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : I am glad that my hon. friend has made very good, constructive suggestions in the sense that the locality, as has been said by the Leader of the Opposition and all other Members, is the India Gate roundabout.

HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : When I said roundabout, it does not mean going away half a mile. (Interruptions) Just a minute. We will take the decision probably next week. I am calling a meeting...

SHRI S. D. MISRA (Uttar Pradesh) : But no roundabout.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : The decision will be yours, not mine.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ganga Sharan Sinha.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : He has been a member of the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has been a member of the committee and he is also an independent Member.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह (नाम-निर्देशित) : सभापति महोदय, काफी भरे हुये हृदय से मुझे इस पर बोलना पड़ रहा है क्योंकि किसी की मूर्ति-स्थापना का प्रश्न चाहे वह किसी नेता या महापुरुष की मूर्ति का ही प्रश्न हो, भावना और श्रद्धा का प्रश्न होता है और बाकी चीजें उसके बाद ही आती हैं। जिस समय कमेटी ने यह निर्णय लिया उस समय ऐसा नहीं था कि और दूसरे दृष्टिकोण हमारे सामने नहीं रखे गये थे; दूसरे दृष्टिकोण रखे भी गये थे उस समय। जो कमेटी थी उसमें गवर्नमेंट के जो चीफ आर्किटेक्ट थे वह भी एक सदस्य थे, चीफ इंजीनियर पी० डब्लू० डी० उसके सदस्य थे, दिल्ली डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव उसके सदस्य थे, दिल्ली के चीफ कमिश्नर उसके सदस्य थे, दिल्ली के मेयर उसके सदस्य थे, नई दिल्ली म्युनिसिपल कमेटी के सीनियर वाइसचेयरमैन उसके सदस्य थे और उस समय के वर्क्स एंड हाउसिंग के मिनिस्टर श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना उसके अध्यक्ष थे। दिल्ली के भूतपूर्व मुख्य मंत्री उसके एक सदस्य थे और इस सदन से मैं उसका सदस्य था। जितने निर्णय उस कमेटी द्वारा लिये गये सर्वसम्मति से लिये गये। कमेटी के भीतर इस विषय में कोई दो राय नहीं थीं। हम लोगों को जो सूचना मिली उसके अनुसार, सिवाय दो मूर्तियों के हमारी सभी सिफारिशों को सरकार ने स्वीकार किया। ऐसा हम लोगों को कहा गया कि कैबिनेट का यह निर्णय हुआ कि श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू और डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद की मूर्ति के बारे में कमेटी ने जो सिफारिश की थी उसको कैबिनेट ने नहीं माना और बाकी निर्णयों को मान लिया था।

अभी एक मित्र ने सवाल उठाया है नेताजी सुभाष बोस की मूर्ति का, उस संबंध में मैं यह बता दूँ कि उस कमेटी ने यह भी निर्णय किया

था कि नेताजी सुभाष बोस की मूर्ति लाल किले के आगे नगई जाय। यह कमेटी का सर्वसम्मत निर्णय था।

जब कैबिनेट ने एक बार उस निर्णय को मान लिया तो एव तो उसको बदलना नहीं चाहिये और अगर बदलना चाहिये तो जिस तरह से बदला गया, एव प्राइवेट तरीके से, उस तरह नहीं होना चाहिये। सब से बड़ी बात यह है कि इस संबंध में उल्टी बात की गई। जब जगह का निर्णय हो गया था तो जो एक्स-पर्ट थे उनसे यह कहना चाहिये था कि उस जगह के अनुकूल मूर्ति का निर्माण करें लेकिन सारी चीजें बदल दी गईं। जगह के अनुसार मूर्ति का निर्माण नहीं रखा गया, मूर्ति जैसी निर्मित होगी उसके अनुसार जगह की बात कर दी गई। सारी चीजें उलट दी गईं। इस तरह लोगों के दिमाग में, बहुतों के दिमाग में, शक पैदा हो रहा है। मैं समझता हूं कि यह गवर्नमेंट की बड़ी गलती हुई कि गांधीजी की मूर्ति के संबंध में जो सर्वसम्मत आम राय थी, जिसमें सभी का मतैक्य था, उसके अनुसार काम नहीं किया और गवर्नमेंट ने शक का मौका दिया और उसके चलते आज जो परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है गांधी जी की मूर्ति के बारे में वादविवाद हो, यह दर्द, दुःख और तकलीफ का विषय है।

गांधी जी की मूर्ति के बारे में कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकती, नहीं होनी चाहिये थी, लेकिन गवर्नमेंट की मिस्हैंडलिंग की वजह से आज गांधी जी की मूर्ति के बारे में हम वादविवाद कर रहे हैं, दो रायें हो रही हैं।

आगे मैं इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि अब तक जो कुछ हुआ हो, हुआ हो लेकिन आगे कोई गलतफहमी और शक का मौका नहीं दिया जाय और गांधी जी की मूर्ति का जिस प्रतिष्ठा, जिस श्रद्धा, जिस भावना और जिस सर्व सम्मति से निर्माण और स्थापना होनी चाहिये वही कदम गवर्नमेंट को उठाना चाहिये। अभी ही हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने जो

कहा उससे फिर शक पैदा हो सकता है। अभी श्री भूपेश गुप्त को जवाब देते हुये उन्होंने कहा, इंडिया गेट के राउंड एबाउट कहीं पर मूर्ति की स्थापना हो। उनको यह ख्याल रखना चाहिये कि उन्होंने जो यह कहा, यह कहना भी शक पैदा करता है, भूपेश गुप्त के जवाब में आपने शक दिला देने वाली बात कह दी।

श्री गणेशी लाल चौधरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उनको खुद ही शक है।

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह : इसलिये गवर्नमेंट के मिनिस्टर खुद अपने आचरण से, अपने व्यवहार से, अपने वाक्य से, लोगों को शक दिलाते रहे हैं। मैं यह निवेदन पहले भी कर चुका हूं, व्यक्तिगत रूप से कर चुका हूं और आज सार्वजनिक रूप से भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ भी झगड़ा हो मदभेद हो, कम से कम गांधी जी की मूर्ति के मामले को पार्टी का, गुटबन्दी का, प्रश्न नहीं बनने देना चाहिये। शक की गुंजाइश नहीं देनी चाहिए। यही मेरा निवेदन है।

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY :
It only shows how little minds and pigmies should not deal with matters of giants.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Now everybody has a right to think that somebody else is a pigmy and he is a giant. It is only the people who will decide who is a pigmy and who is a giant.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : I am a pigmy all right, but I am talking about Gandhiji.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I have not called you.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : I have never said that I am a giant.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : If all of us are pigmies, then unluckily pigmies have to decide where the statue of Gandhiji should be installed.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY :
In a decent way.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : If we are all pigmies, then pigmies will have to decide it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, let there be no doubt that after we are dead, nobody would bother about even the photographs of some of us !

SHRI K. K. SHAH : जेयरमैन साहब, गंगा बाबू को मैं बड़ा मानता हूँ, बहुत आदर करता हूँ, कि गंगा बाबू को संतोष हो जाय इसलिये मैं कुछ पढ़ कर बता रहा हूँ :

"The hon. Minister conveyed the desire...."

This was on 16th May 1969, the first meeting I attended.

"...of the Parliament that the Gandhiji statue be designed and erected on the same spot where King George's statue once stood, by 2nd of October, 1969, and asked the members as to what procedure was to be followed to implement the wishes of Parliament."

इसके बाद उन्होंने बहुत प्लीड किया तो फिर दुबारा मैंने कहा :

"The exact location of the statue was again discussed by the members of the committee and H. M. stated that all sections of the House were unanimous that the statue must be located exactly in the same place where King George's statue stood."

Now even then, they went on pleading, and this is what I said :

"Please prepare a note which I shall have to place before Parliament."

And "Mr. Bhalla agreed to prepare a note giving all the arguments for and against the statue being placed inside the circle for the consideration of Parliament." The location they did not want to change.

SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA : Who is Mr. Bhalla ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Mr. Bhalla is the President of the Indian Institute of Architects.

श्री नरंजन वर्मा : उस क्या मतलब है ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : If I may point out, so that Ganga Babu may not have an iota of doubt that we are oscillating...

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA : There is no question of myself being in doubt. You have created doubts in the minds of the countrymen.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Now, we cannot go to this extent of saying that a doubt is created when the expert opinion is tried to be conveyed. I can understand if we have taken a decision without consulting you, or if we have not thought of bringing this opinion to you. I think it will be a bad day, with due respect to Ganga Babu, if even the chances of an expert opinion for reconsideration of a decision are ruled out in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Talwar. Last question.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan) : Sir, Gandhiji was the Father of the Nation. He challenged the mighty British Empire and got our freedom. Gandhiji was a saint as well as the greatest statesman that the world has produced. Therefore, as you have heard all sections of the House, they agree, they unanimously demand that Gandhiji's statue should stand where the statue of King George V was. I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to who gave this 2½ times life-size ? My submission is that whatever practical difficulties there are or there might be, they should be overcome. If necessary, the India Gate structure should be modified and Gandhiji's statue should be installed there I would like to have an assurance from the honourable Minister that this would be done and that no other site would be selected for the installation of Gandhiji's statue. I would like to know as to who gave this 2½ times life-size for which the site has to be changed.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : As I said, the expert committee has suggested this size. So far as the committee is concerned, Dr. Gajendragadkar's name has been taken. In fairness to him, it is not only Dr. Gajendragadkar, but there are Shri Rajamannar, Shri Khandelwal, Miss Padmaja Naidu, Shri J. R. Bhalla; Shri Khanvinde, Shri Satyajit Ray and Shri H. Rehman. These are the people who are to finalise out of the eight models which should be selected.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : The mandate of the House should be clear to the Minister. It has to be implemented, whatever committees are appointed or have been appointed. We do not want anything else

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no doubt that the views of the House have been clearly expressed.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE ARMS (FOURTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 1969

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Arms Act, 1959, a copy each of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notifications G.S.R. No. 2475 (in English) and G.S.R. No. 2476 (in Hindi), dated the 22nd October, 1969, publishing the Arms (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1969. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2338/69].

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON RAILWAYS FOR THE YEAR 1969-70

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Expenditure of the Central Government on Railways for the year 1969-70

REFERENCE TO REPORTED MEETING OF FOUR SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY WITH SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) : Sir, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the House that it has been reported in the press and confirmed by the Minister of State for Finance that four senior officers of the Finance Ministry, Mr. Govindan Nair, Dr. I. G. Patel, Mr. Shiralkar and Mr. Bakshi, who were in charge of the budget preparations during this time of the year, met Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, former

Finance Minister, in his hotel who had to resign twice under a cloud and it is reported. . .

AN HON. MEMBER : What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I permitted this to mention this. But no questions now.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : It is reported that they discussed some financial matters and also something about unemployment, etc. etc. Some time back, last week I think it was also reported that Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari had been requested by the Prime Minister to help her in preparing the budget. Sir, it was a very serious matter. Officers who are under the Official Secrets Act, are not expected to divulge anything regarding financial matters to any person however big he was, and particularly to Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari who had to resign under a cloud. I demand that a statement be made this afternoon, if possible, or tomorrow.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : This must be discussed thoroughly. This has caused us serious concern that now there are certain persons who are acting as super Ministers. After all, why did these officers go there? To work out their. . .

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, not now.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : You should view it seriously. We want a thorough, full-fledged discussion on this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this is not the time for it. I have not permitted you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why permission? The matter has been raised and you can give me permission now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At this hour you want to raise it. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Do you want us to keep quiet?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : He wants a discussion, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, unless you take my permission you cannot speak. We cannot have a discussion today. Mr. Bhargava now.