

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Madam, he has not answered the other part of the question whether they are going to declare the R. S. S. as a political organisation.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: That we have done. We did it several years ago.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: But it must be in the Conduct Rules.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is there.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: No, it is not there.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is there.

श्री राजनारायण : आप हमको बुलाती रह जायेंगी, दूसरे लोग बोल लेंगे और मंत्री उसका जवाब भी दे देंगे। यही पार्लियामेंटरी सिस्टम है? जब आप किसी को बुलाती हैं तो उसको बोलने का मौका मिलना चाहिए।

उपसभापति : सवाल पूछना है तो पूछ लो।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं मंत्री जो से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने आर० एस० एस० को राजनीतिक संगठन के रूप में मान्यता दी है और जब वह कामयाबी के साथ कार्यान्वित नहीं हो पा रहा है तो क्या सरकार इसको जरूरी समझेगी कि सरकार खुली छुट दे दे सरकारी कर्मचारियों को कि जो राजनीतिक संगठन उन्हें पसन्द हो वे उसके सामान्य सदस्य हो जायें और उसकी एक्टिविटी में भाग ले सकें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN 'THE ORGANISER'

4. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR:†

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN):

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI:

MISS. M. L. M. NAIDU:

SHRIMATI SATYAWATI DANG:

SHRIMATI PUSHPABEN JANARDANRAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI BINDUMATI DEVI :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. (Mrs.) Mangladevi Talwar.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned 'Women Rulers are Disastrous' published in 'THE ORGANISER' dated July 25, 1969;

(b) whether Government consider that the article is a vulgar attack on the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi in particular and women in general; and

(c) If so, what steps Government have taken to stop such scurrilous, highly offensive and vulgar publication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government consider that the article offends against the standards of public taste.

(c) The article is being referred to the Press Council for appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Talwar. Please be brief. There are many names on the list.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Madam, I am glad that the Government has taken note of it and it has referred the article and the paper to the Press Council. But it requires further scrutiny by an appropriate authority because the article is very offensive. I would like to quote a few words from the article. It is written there:

"Widowed women in power become the targets of increasing flattery leading to rash actions on their part. They also become extremely receptive to flattery of younger men."

The above remarks indirectly point to our Prime Minister. Further, in the "Organiser" of 2nd August our Prime Minister has been called a "Mehbooba" on its front page. Prime Minister is the head of the executive of the Government of India and the office of the Prime Minister, its respect and dignity, should be upheld by everybody and especially by the Government. A long time has elapsed since the article has been referred to the Press Council and I would like to know if the Home Minister has received the reaction and opinions of the Press Council.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He says it has been referred to the Press Council. Its opinions have not come so far.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Madam, there is hardly anything for me to say in this. I generally agree with what

the honourable Member has said. We have referred the article to the Press Council and after its verdict is received, we shall consider what further action we can take in this matter.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : Madam, this particular article casts aspersions on the entire womanhood of the world, not only of India. There was a Calling-Attention Motion about this article yesterday in the Rajasthan Assembly in which the Assembly Members have unanimously demanded that the entry of this paper into that State should be banned. Even a Jan Sangh Member has stated that it is not in good taste. I should also like to point out that under our Constitution this article infringes the fundamental right of the concept of equality of opportunities of the community as a whole. So, this is a serious situation and I would like to know from the Home Minister whether action will be taken in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which gives a newsprint quota to this paper. What action does the Government propose to take? It has referred the article and the paper to the Press Council but that is not enough for us. The Minister must categorically give an assurance to us that he is going to take severe action against this paper so that our newspapers will be free from this kind of yellow journalism.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Madam, we have already given our adverse opinion as far as this particular article is concerned. And whether any further action should be taken against this paper will depend on the view that the Press Council takes of this matter.

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मैडम, मैं माननीय मंत्री से जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या यह सच है कि जनतांत्रिक संविधान में किसी जाति, वर्ग या सेक्स के आधार पर इस तरह की अशोभनीय बातें करना पत्रकारिता के नियमों के विरुद्ध है? अगर है तो क्या ऐसे पत्रों पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने की आप की क्या राय है और क्या आप सोचते हैं कि ऐसे पत्रों पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाये? दूसरे, क्या आप इस बात को मानते हैं कि लंका के और हमारे बहुत अच्छे राजनीतिक संबंध हैं और वहां की भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री भंडारनायक के संबंध में भी जो अशोभनीय शब्द लिख गये हैं इसका खराब असर हमारे राजनीतिक संबंधों पर पड़ सकता है? तीसरे, क्या आप

को मालूम है कि न केवल भारत की, बल्कि सारे विश्व की महिलाओं पर इस आर्गनाइज़र के लेख द्वारा आघात हुआ है जिससे महिलाओं में बड़ा असंतोष है और आपको विदित होगा कि कुछ दिन पहले आर्गनाइज़र के आफिस पर दिल्ली की सैकड़ों महिलाओं ने एक बहुत बड़ा प्रदर्शन किया था। इन सारी चीजों को देखते हुए, इन घटनाओं को देखते हुए क्या आप यह महसूस करते हैं कि इस तरह के पत्रों को बंद कर दिया जाये, उन पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाये और ऐसे जो पत्रकार हैं उनके ऊपर उचित कार्यवाही की जाये ताकि आइन्दा के लिए उनकी ऐसी हिम्मत न पड़े?

श्री विद्या चरण शुकल : मैं माननीय सदस्या से संपूर्ण रूप से सहमत हूं कि इसके लिए उचित कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए और उसी के अंतर्गत हमने इसे प्रेस काउंसिल के पास भेजा है जो कि इस बात के लिए हमें राय देगी और उनके पास कुछ शक्ति भी है कि वह अपना असंतोष ज़ाहिर कर सकते हैं इस लेख के संबंध में और ...

श्री आबिद अली : जल्दी कराइये।

श्री विद्या चरण शुकल : मैंने पहले ही कहा कि जैसे ही उनकी राय हमें पता लगेगी उनके आधार पर हम यह तय कर सकेंगे कि इस पर हमें क्या कार्यवाही आगे करनी चाहिये और जो माननीय सदस्या ने कहा लंका के संबंध में, मैं समझता हूं कि उनकी आशंका ठीक है और हमें इस बारे में बहुत सावधानी रखनी चाहिए कि जिन मित्र देशों के साथ हमारे अच्छे संबंध हैं उनके बारे में इस तरह की गैर-ज़िम्मेदारी वाली बातें न की जाये जिससे हमारे संबंधों में फर्क आये और विश्व की महिलायें इससे असंतुष्ट होंगी यह बात मैं भली भांति समझ सकता हूं।

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह : मैडम ...

श्री राजनारायण : महिलाओं के लिये मरदों को भी लड़ने दीजिये।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : First Miss Mary Naidu. I want to finish the ladies' list first. Yes, Miss Naidu, you ask your question.

MISS M. L. M. NAIDU : I thank the honourable Home Minister for giving us the assurance that the matter will be looked into and anyway he is going to consult the Press Council. I hope the members of the Press Council will consider themselves as fathers of some girls, as husbands of respectable ladies, as brothers of some sisters and as sons of mothers, and not suffer from any inferiority complex as men. There seems to be some inferiority complex among men that they are being governed by a lady. That is why they take advantage of the situation and sheer frustration makes them use language that is not fit to be used by real gentlemen. While thanking the Minister I feel hopeful that the Press Council will give proper consideration to this article and that immediate action will be taken against the paper.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Madam, I share the hopes of the honourable Member.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह : उपसभापति महोदय, अभी हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि प्रेस कौंसिल इसके सम्बन्ध में राय कायम कर के उचित कार्यवाही करेगी, तो क्या उनको यह पता है कि सिवाये राय जाहिर करने के उसके अलावा प्रेस कौंसिल की और कोई कार्यवाही करने का अधिकार नहीं है ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जहां तक कि प्रेस कौंसिल का सम्बन्ध है वह राय जाहिर करने के साथ-साथ किसी अखबार का या अखबार के लिखने वाले का सेसर कर सकती है। सेसर करने का भी उनको अधिकार है। लेकिन जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि उनकी राय का हमें पता लगे और अगर वह उचित समझते हैं उनको सेसर करें तो उनकी राय के आधार पर या उनके सेसर के आधार पर हम निर्णय कर सकते हैं कि हमें इसके बारे में क्या कार्यवाही करनी चाहिये।

श्रीमती पुष्पाबेन जनार्दनराय मेहता : इस प्रश्न को जब हम जानते हैं तो हमें बड़ा दुःख होता है। कोई व्यक्ति स्त्री है या पुरुष है वह अपना कार्य करता है वह अपने सयोग से करता है, और उनके कार्य या व्यवहार से समाज में या राष्ट्र में कोई प्रश्न होता है तो उसके कार्य के लिये टीका हो सकती है, लेकिन वह स्त्री है

इसी को नजर में रख करके जो अगर कोई टीका होती है, तो इससे समाज में बड़ा बुरा सभाव होता है। मुझे मालूम है कि जब चुनाव होता है और कोई स्त्री उम्मीदवार होती है तो उसके सामने ऐसे ही गलीज प्रचार करते हैं। जो ऐसी पत्रकारिता है, वह हमारे बीच में स्त्री को समाज में काम करने को बड़ा मुश्किल कर देती है और जो जनता के विचार दबे हुये हैं उसको आगे बढ़ाना मुश्किल होता है। इस लिये मेरा सरकार से कहना है कि जो ऐसी यलो पत्रकारिता है उसको सख्त हाथ से बन्द कर देना चाहिये और जो स्त्रियां व्यक्ति के तौर पर समाज में काम करती हैं, उनको पूरा संरक्षण देना चाहिये। मुझे दुःख है कि हमारी जो इतनी बड़ी प्राइम मिनिस्टर हैं उनके बारे में इतना लिखा जा सकता है, हमारी जो लका की बड़ी बहन हैं उनके बारे में लिख सकते हैं तो सामाजिक कार्य करने वाली और छोटे-मोटे क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली बहनों की कैसी बुरी हालत होगी, वह हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब को सोचना चाहिये। तो मैं चाहती हूँ और निवेदन करती हूँ कि ऐसी जो प्रेस है उनके साथ सख्त हाथ से काम लेना चाहिये।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैं माननीय सदस्या की राय से साधारण तौर से सहमत हूँ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gupta

SHRI ABID ALI : How this bull has entered the China shop ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : His name is here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am a little surprised by the reply of the Minister who said that it has been referred to the Press Council. Everybody knows that the Press Council has no authority to take action. May I know whether the Government considers that *Prima facie* the publication calls for action ? When was this matter brought to the notice of the Governments ? I would like to know the exact date. Here it was published on the 26th July issue of 'Organiser' and here is the Independence Day issue of the 'Organiser' and this is

how they take action. It came after 20 days and this issue contains at least four Government advertisements—the Mysore Iron and Steel Limited, the State Bank of India, Mahatma Gandhi Birth Centenary, from the Government of India and the Punjab State lotteries. Do I understand that it is how the Government take action even after the matter had been brought to the notice of the Government in this House by an hon. Lady Member ? It is the Central Government that is issuing advertisements to the 'Organiser' which are in this journal, almost half and full page advertisements. I would like to know whether in the light of the disclosures made on the floor of the House, the Government sent instructions to the various States and also the Central agencies that (1) the 'Organiser' should not be given any official advertisement, (2) the 'Organiser' should not be given any facilities available to newspapers because it is a scurrilous journal and a communal journal of the worst type ? May I also know whether they consulted legal opinion, the Attorney-General and others as to what action could be taken against it ? I would not like to read everything that is there in this article but it says :

"Did not a widow, Mrs. Bandarnaike, ruin beautiful Ceylon during three years of her petulant, erratic and mischievous rule, though her husband brought Ceylon to the way to real progress or prosperity ?"

The suggestion is obvious. Then there is the psychological thing about Freudian tests of women over fifty and so on. Women can better tell about them. All these are given in that. It is a scurrilous, obscene writing. I would like to know why in view of these, the Government is delaying the matter when they know very well from the Press Council Act that the Council has no other go except to express its opinion and cannot even properly guard against such things. Therefore the matter should be explained before the House in all seriousness. I charge the Government particularly for suppressing this thing when a lady Member brought it to the notice of the House and when it was brought to their notice, the Government took cover under a reference to the Press Council thereby taking no action and in between the Government is supplying the 'Organiser' Government advertisements so that it can flourish and write such things.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The Government have no intention of covering up the misdeeds of any newspaper and particularly when such articles are written about which I have already expressed the Government's opinion that it is absolutely in bad taste to write such things. As far as the powers of the Press Council are concerned, I have already stated that the Council can express its opinion and can also censor the paper and the Government's action will depend on what view the Press Council takes as far as this matter is concerned. When we came to know about it...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When did you come to know of it ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Immediately after it was published. Even I read it and I found that it was absolutely a repulsive and a wrong type of article.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Only wrong ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Not only wrong but something in bad taste. I do not want to use strong words. We are not afraid of anything but what we say is, this has been referred to the Press Council. They will give their opinion objectively on this matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What objective opinion ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The very fact that we have referred it to the Press Council from the Government means that we take grave objection to this article and that is why we have referred it to them and when the view of the Council is known to us, then we shall take action in the light of the opinion given by them.

About the advertisements and other matters, they will be considered after the Press Council opinion is known, not before.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why not write to the States ? Did they write to the States inviting their attention to this kind of writing giving instructions that advertisements should not be given ?

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : भूपेश जी की जब सरकार होगी तो प्रेस को खत्म कर देगे। यह रूस और चीन में हो सकता है कि प्रेस को खत्म कर दें।

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN : Let me say a few words. Madam, every woman Member on the floor of this House, has registered her strong protest against this and also several others but this is a matter which must cut across all political parties. Anyone treating this as a political question would be doing a criminal act against culture and good taste. I take it that if this journal has anything to do with the Jan Sangh, it is the Jan Sangh that must repudiate it more than any other party. They are a big party. They have members throughout India and if they do not repudiate this with all the strength in them, it would be tragic for them, not for the country. Having said that, let me say that I have seldom heard a more vacillating, weak and absolutely, may I say, ridiculous reply than the one given by the Minister. He goes on repeating parrot-like 'I have referred it to the Press Council' Has he nothing more to say than that ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : If the Members repeat their questions, I have to repeat my answer. There is no question of being parrot-like. I am sorry that the Members is using this kind of word. As far as the powers of the Press Council are concerned, I have stated that after they have given their opinion, if they have censored the paper, then our hands will be strengthened to take further action in the matter.

कुमारी मनिबेन वल्लभभाई पटेल : मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या जब तक प्रेस कौंसिल अपनी राय देगी तब तक आप इस इंटरिम पीरियड में उनको एडवर्टाइजमेंट देते ही रहेंगे ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैंने यह कहा है कि जब तक प्रेस कौंसिल की राय हमारे सामने नहीं आ जाती है तब तक इसके बारे में हम और कोई कार्यवाही नहीं करेंगे।

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he is also aware that on the 2nd of August a demonstration was organised in front of the office of the 'Organiser' after a meeting in a club near the railway station had been held and addressed by comrades Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali, who has financed the 'Patriot' and the 'Link' to the tune of Rs. twenty lakhs—God knows from where this much money came—

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : That is irrelevant.

(Interruptions)

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I am talking about the demonstration that was organised.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : I am sorry the demonstration did not burn up the office of the 'Organiser'.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : If Mr. Chatterjee had been there, he would have burnt it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Come to the point.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I am coming to the point. After that meeting had been addressed by comrades Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali, Mrs. Subhadra Joshi and Mrs. Sarla Sharma, a big mob of women numbering as many as thirty-seven collected before the office of the 'Organiser'. Thousands of posters had been pasted on the walls of Delhi in Hindi, in Urdu and in English calling upon the women of Delhi to collect there. And this photograph I have in my possession shows that the gathering there numbered exactly thirty-seven. Now my question is this. I want to know from the hon. Minister who organised this demonstration (Interruptions) Was it not the Communist Party which organised it ? If it was so, I would like to know why, after describing that nothing had happened at the Rabindra Sarovar stadium in Calcutta, where actually women had been molested by the hundreds, after defending all that horrible thing that had happened there, they are raising a hell over here. I would like to know if the hon. Minister is aware of this also.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I do not know what is the question in this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There is nothing.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The question is who organised that demonstration, who financed all that, whether you know anything about it.

श्री राजनारायण : मैडम, असल में यहाँ कोई बात ठीक से हो नहीं पाती। हर जगह हल्ला होने लगता है। (Interruptions) हमको देखिये,

हम कितने शांत हैं। मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ। जो आर्टिकल लिखा गया है, मैं चाहता हूँ इस सदन के सभी सम्मानित सदस्य उसको पढ़ें। क्या वह इसको अच्छी तरह से पढ़ें हैं। आर्टिकल का कुछ हिस्सा तो बहुत ही खराब है और निश्चित रूप में वह हिस्सा इस ढंग में अखबारों में जाना नहीं चाहिये, वह देश की तमाम महिलाओं के ऊपर एक तरह से दोषारोपण है कि महिलाएं इस ढंग की होती हैं। मगर आखिर का एक हिस्सा सैद्धांतिक है जिसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि "एब्सोल्यूट पावर" उन्होंने कहा है कि absolute power corrupts man and corrupts woman अगर एब्सोल्यूट पावर . . .

उपसभापति : सवाल पूछिये। I do not want any discourse. Please ask a question.

(Interruptions.)

श्री राजनारायण : मंत्री जी ने एक बहुत ही गलत चीज़ यहां पर चला दी। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, अगर कोई साहित्यकार किसी साहित्य में बुद्ध ने महिलाओं के बारे में जो कहा है उसको लिखें तो सरकार क्या कहेगी? अगर कोई पत्रकार कहे कि कैकयी कैसी थी, शूर्पणखा कैसी थी, लंकिनी कैसी थी, तो सरकार क्या कहेगी? क्या इसको अखबार में नहीं निकाला जा सकता? इसलिये बुद्धि को संतुलित करके सरकार का उत्तर होना चाहिये। निश्चित रूप में महिलाओं का आदर मनुष्यों से बढ़ कर है . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You must put a question, Mr. Rajnarain . . .

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमती गांधी का किसी से कम नहीं होना चाहिये . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : . . . otherwise it will not go on record.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं सवाल पूछता हूँ। पहले आप सदन के लोगों को समझा दीजिए काहे वह सदन का समय बरबाद करते हैं। हमें भूपेश गुप्त से कम लेक्चर देना नहीं आता। और रामचन्द्रन् जी बिना सवाल पूछे अपनी

ओपीनियन एक्सप्रेस किये हैं तो हम भी अपनी ओपीनियन एक्सप्रेस करने के लिये अधिकारी हैं। इसलिये मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार अच्छी तरह से अपने जवाब को देखे। जो सामान्य रूप से महिलाओं के ऊपर आक्षेप हो अगर वह बिल्कुल गंदा है तो गलत है। अखबारों को हिदायत होनी चाहिये, बिना प्रेस कौंसिल में गये हुए कि महिलाओं के ऊपर किसी प्रकार का आक्षेप करना बिल्कुल घृणित माना जायेगा और दंडनीय होगा। लेकिन अगर एक खास व्यक्ति विशेष के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता है और वह सही बात है तो खुली तौर पर कहना चाहिये कि इसका चरित्र कैकयी जैसा है, लंकिनी जैसा है, शूर्पणखा जैसा है।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैं तो समझता हूँ किसी भी तरह से कभी भी महिलाओं के बारे में इस तरह से लिखना नहीं चाहिये चाहे एक महिला के बारे में लिखें चाहे सब महिलाओं के बारे में लिखें। इसलिये जो भी लिखा गया है वह निंदनीय है और गलत है।

SHRI ABID ALI : Madam, categorical answers I want from the hon. Minister to the simple questions that I am putting. Is it not a fact that Government are convinced that this article is all obnoxious and defamatory and scurrilous? What comes in the way of the Government going directly to court without waiting for an opinion from the Press Council? They have got inherent and clear power and they could exercise that power. Will the hon. Minister take note of the request made from all sides of this House and convey to his colleagues concerned the request that all advertisements to communal and anti-social and antinational papers should be stopped?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Madam, Government are convinced that this article is in bad taste. We have said so in our main answer. As far as the question of legal action is concerned, we will have it examined if any legal action is possible under the present laws that we have. As far as his third question is concerned regarding the stoppage of advertisements, normally speaking, these things are not linked unless there is a conviction ordered by a court. Unless a paper is convicted under any law,

of the land by a court of law, or the Press Council censures a paper, we cannot take any action.

MISS M. L. M. NAIDU : But on moral grounds you can.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : I am sorry the replies of the hon. Minister have been not only weak but also vacillating. Now at one stage he said that the actions that the Government would take will depend upon the opinion of the Press Council, which I think is a wrong position to take. Now I want to put some categorical questions. Is there any law or rule which prohibits Government from taking action before referring the matter to the Press Council? If there is no such prohibition then, the article being patently objectionable, why did not the Minister consult the Law Ministry for an opinion whether action is called or not? That is my second question. Now comes my question number three. Is there any prohibition on the Government to stop advertisements to this paper which has patently written such an absurd article, and are they debarred by any law or rule from taking action unless the Press Council has advised them to take action or not to take action?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : There is no law or regulation which debar Government from taking any action on this matter, but a certain procedure has to be followed and we have decided to follow that procedure as far as this particular matter is concerned. We have, therefore, referred this matter to the Press Council for their opinion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question also was whether you have sent it to your Law Ministry for an opinion.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already said that we shall also examine this matter. I may say again that we shall have it examined now whether any action can be taken under any existing law against this newspaper.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The third question was about advertisements.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already said that only if there has been any conviction, that question will arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, I accuse the hon. Minister that he is

misleading the House. The Home Ministry has a list of people who are not to be given advertisements irrespective of the Press Council or not. Why is he saying such things? We are in possession of definite information.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : As far as the Home Ministry is concerned we shall not advise any authority to stop advertisements unless we are convinced that a certain law has been broken or certain illegal act has been done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Why is he not saying clearly that he has not referred the matter to the Law Ministry?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have said we are doing that. I should be allowed to complete my answer. What I am saying is, we will have it legally examined if it is possible for us to take any action against this paper under the laws that are available to us and after that we shall decide what action is to be taken.

श्री राजनारायण : मंडम, हमारा एक प्वायंट आफ आर्डर है। हमारा प्वायंट आफ आर्डर यह है कि सरकार ने यहां पर पहले ही कह दिया है कि जो प्रकाशित हुआ है वह बिल्कुल ही अनुचित है, गलत है, बर्बर है, असभ्य है, जंगली है और उसकी जितनी निन्दा की जाये उतनी कम है। मैं इसको मानता हूं। इतना मत व्यक्त करने के बाद फिर सरकार किस मुंह से कहती है कि वह एडवर्टाइजमेंट देना बंद नहीं करेगी? इस तरह की चीज प्रकाशित करने के बाद सरकार का यह कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि वह आर्गनाइजर को विज्ञापन देना तत्काल बंद कर दे। मैं यह बात मान सकता हूं कि अगर कोई व्यक्ति किसी को व्यक्तिगत रूप से कुछ कहे या प्रकाशित करे तो वह दूसरी बात है, लेकिन आम देश की महिलाओं के संबंध में कोई अनुचित बात कहता है, अपमान करता है तो वह दंडनीय है। अगर कोई प्रधान मंत्री के खिलाफ कुछ लिखे तो हम उसको अनुचित नहीं कहेंगे लेकिन आम महिलाओं के खिलाफ इस तरह का लेख प्रकाशित करना उचित मालूम नहीं देता है।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जो चीज अनुचित है वह आवश्यक रूप से गैर-कानूनी नहीं होती है। गैर-कानूनी होना और अनुचित होना, ये दोनों अलग अलग चीजे हैं। हमने कहा है कि यह अनुचित है, गलत है और हर तरह से उसको गलत ठहराया जा सकता है, पर उसको गैर-कानूनी नहीं ठहराया जा सकता है। इसके बारे में तो सोच-विचार करना पड़ेगा और जाच-पड़ताल करनी पड़ेगी।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, on a point of order. The point of order is this. The hon Minister should give a straight answer. Mr. Rajnarain has also put a question. As Editor, I know it for a fact on the basis of authority from some Ministry. Some Minister was approached about advertisements and he said that the Home Ministry has given a list of newspapers to whom advertisements should not be given. Can he deny that the Home Ministry has got a list of newspapers who should not be given advertisements? Let him deny it and open himself to the charge of a privilege motion.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I am not afraid of denying or confirming anything. But if such questions are sprung at me I am afraid, I cannot give any answer. I will have to find out. I cannot say anything at present.

श्री पीताम्बर दास : जहाँ तक महिलाओं के सम्मान का प्रश्न है, हमारे देश की संस्कृति यह कहती है और हमने यह माना है कि स्त्री मातृवत् है और कोई भी पुरुष स्त्री का अपमान सहन करना पसन्द नहीं करेगा।

जहाँ तक इस लेख की बात है, मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि उसके कटेड्स को शान्त चित्त से एग्जामिन कर लिया जाये। चाहे उस चीज को प्रेस कौंसिल करे, अदालत करे, ला मिनिस्ट्री करे या कोई और एजेंसी करे। अगर उस आर्टिकल में कोई खराब बात लिखी गई हो तो जो व्यवस्था दंड की है वह होनी चाहिये। परन्तु मैं एक बात की ओर गृह मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित कराना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने सदन की बहस को इस पहलू से भी देखा है कि इस आर्टिकल का जो हैडिंग है वह "वीमन रूलर्स आर डिजास्टरर्स"

है? जितनी भी महिलाओं ने इस लेख पर आपत्ति की है उनमें से कोई भी रूलर नहीं है—None of them is a ruler—और जिन पुरुषों ने आपत्ति की है उनमें से कोई भी वीमन नहीं है—None of them is a woman—इसलिए लेख के कटेड्स एग्जामिन हो इसमें कोई परेशानी की बात नहीं है। कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति जो दोनों कडीशनो को सैटिस्फाई करता हो, यानी वीमन भी हो और रूलर भी हो, अगर उसको कोई आपत्ति होगी तो फिर इस पर यहाँ विचार किया जा सकता है। वह अपनी आपत्ति प्रकट कर सकती है। जिन्हें सफाई देनी होगी वह देगे या जिन्हें आरोप लगाना होगा वह लगायेगे। No woman who is not a Ruler is entitled to object and no Ruler who is not a woman is entitled to object.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : But it is not a question of the heading of the article alone. The entire article is extremely objectionable. They have written very objectionable things against women in general, not only about women who are Rulers.

SHRI T N SINGH : As one associated with the Press for a long time and as one who considers himself as a lover of the freedom of the Press whereas I have been deeply pained by the article in question I would like to say one thing and I want to express my opinion here. I want the concurrence of the Government also in that opinion. The moment there is a demand by any section of the House that because a particular Government is offended by a particular article and therefore it should start punishing that paper, and Government uses its executive power for that purpose that day the liberty of the Press will end. No Government, no Executive, because it dislikes a paper, should have the power to punish the Press in this way. I think, Madam, the matter has been referred to the Press Council. The whole House has faith in the Press Council. Let us urge the Press Council because of the urgency of the matter, to take up the question early and give its opinion at an early date but I beg of all sections of the House : whatever the Provocation, don't encourage the Executive to take action against a paper because

the Executive or a party does not like that paper. That would be a wrong thing

DR (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : The hon Leader of the Jana Sangh has put forth a very queer argument that the women who have spoken here are not Rulers and the men who have spoken are not women. Is that an argument ? The paper has made slanderous remarks about women in general

SOME HON MEMBERS : No, no.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : It is not only the Rulers. The Rulers need not come here. Anyway, I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government is aware that this paper has created communal hatred in connection with Ranchi riots. What has become of that case against this paper pending before the Court of the Delhi Magistrate ? The hon Minister has said that action can be taken only if the paper is convicted. There are other cases pending against this paper and I would like to know what has become of those cases

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Certain cases have been instituted against this paper for writing things of a communal nature. I am not aware of the stage at which those cases are now. These cases are being prosecuted in courts of law and action according to the verdict of the courts will be taken

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP J. S WILLIAMS

*617 DR BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Arch Bishop J S Williams appearing in the 'Hindustan' daily of 28th May, 1969 wherein he has alleged that according to the Church Law of 1927 the political power of England is equivalent to Lord Christ for the Christians in India ;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the view expressed by him that the Christian missionaries

are carrying on their proselytising activities in India with political motives only ; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b) Government has seen the news-item

(c) No information is available to show that the statement is based on facts.

†भारत में रहने वाले पाकिस्तानी राष्ट्रिक

* 539. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 मार्च, 1969 को भारत के प्रत्येक राज्य में कितने कितने पाकिस्तानी राष्ट्रिक किस-किस काम से रह रहे थे ;

(ख) 1968-69 के दौरान कितने पाकिस्तानी राष्ट्रिक भारत के विरुद्ध जासूसी करने के आरोप में पकड़े गये ;

(ग) इनमें से कितने लोगों को जासूसी करने के कारण दण्ड दिया गया और कितने लोगोंको उनकी कारावास की अवधि पूरी होने के पहले ही मुक्त कर दिया गया ; और

(घ) पाकिस्तान में गिरफ्तार किये गये भारतीय राष्ट्रिकों में कितने पाकिस्तानी जासूसों की अदला-बदली की गई ?

‡[†PAKISTANI NATIONALS LIVING IN INDIA

*539. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of Pakistani Nationals who were residing in each of the Indian States as on the 1st March, 1969, and the purpose for which they were residing there ;

(b) the number of Pakistani nationals apprehended for spying against India during the year 1968-69

†Transferred from the 14th August, 1969

‡[] English translation.