

SHRI A. D. MANI : You travel towards the eastern region and you find that the menu is completely different. We must have a standard diet which should be available everywhere. The Food Council is there and we have 200 recipes or more. I would make a respectful suggestion that the Railway Administration should consider the question of having a standard diet for all classes for all trains in India so that at least you may develop national integration at the food level.

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**STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE
MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN
MADHYA PRADESH**

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, what about the statement on Madhya Pradesh ? Will they make any statement ? In the other House they have made some statement. We are told that Mr. Chavan got in touch with the Madhya Pradesh Governor or whatever it is. Now that information should be given to this House also.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : I think, Sir, this is an important matter and the Government should make a Statement. We are all running to the P.T.I. board in the library. Mr. Shukla here comes from Madhya Pradesh and he should. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We are not interested in Maharajas and Maharanis. Kindly tell us what is happening there.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :** A debate was admitted by the Speaker in the other House and that debate has just concluded. If the Chair directs we can make a statement some time tomorrow.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The position is, I must submit every time we limp behind Lok Sabha in such matters. The moment it came to be known—I am not giving any opinion on the subject—the Speaker agreed immediately to have this matter discussed.

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated) : Because it was pressed in Lok Sabha. You don't press it here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Just a minute. We can press it but that is not the point. Pressing is very easy.

SHRI M. N. KAUL : I do not agree with you because you press it informally, not by giving a proper notice. You go to the Chairman in the morning and mention to him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is not a question of that. When we came we had not, at two o'clock, thought that it would be discussed at all. Now, a development has taken place. Certain information has come. Trunk calls are made to Bhopal and wherever it is and then we get some information. On the basis of this they agreed to have a discussion. It is a good thing. We are immediately seized of a matter which is agitating Members of Parliament.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : The Minister has agreed to make a statement tomorrow.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI
D. THENGARI) :** You kindly take your seat ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Akbar Ali Khan, all my life I have seen you supporting whatever the Minister says. Today the statement should be made in this House. We are getting many confusing reports. I was in the Central Hall. All kinds of reports are coming out.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI
D. THENGARI) :** I am on my legs. We learn that the Minister will try his level best to give a statement if possible today. He is trying his level best. In the meanwhile, let Dr. Salig Ram speak.

डा० शालिग्राम (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : मिस्टर वाइस चेयरमैन, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूँ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What does level best mean ? I think the statement is ready. It has been read in the other House. You say he is trying his level best. Is it ground level or what level ? All right, let him bring the statement. You are quite correct, but do not say what the Ministers tell you, that he is trying his level best.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh) : We do not want to lessen the time on the Railway Budget debate.

Tomorrow we have fixed a debate on Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not know whether it is tomorrow or tonight. It is for you to decide. First of all, the statement should be brought here, apart from the time. It is a very important matter. We are having Governors running amuck. According to me, Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is all a case of confusion, illiteracy—illiteracy constitutionally speaking—and manipulation from opposite sides.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : I would like to know whether the Government has made any statement in the other House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes Mr. Chavan spoke there. I am giving you more information. You should give me some prize some day. Mr. Chavan said that the Governor would invite the Maharaja—I do not remember the names of Maharajas—Naresh Chandra Singh to take the oath or form the Government. Then, Mr. Vajpayee got in touch with the people there in Madhya Pradesh at half past three. He told me no such invitation has come to Maharaja Naresh Chandra Singh. I am neither enamoured of the Rajmata nor of Maharaja Naresh Chandra Singh, but we must know the facts. I do not know how the Rajmata-Maharaja game is going on. We have got a Raja there and I do not know what he is doing. Kindly tell us. One Raja is getting up.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has raised before you the question of Government making a statement. You have already announced that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs has gone to see whether a statement can be made. No further debate is called for. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is making a long statement, which is not called for.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is a reflection on you, Sir.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The Government is going to say something. Thereafter he can make any comment. Why should he prejudge the issue?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Dinesh Singh is trying to mislead you. He has only misled himself all his life

and nobody else. He can neither lead nor mislead. I must say to his credit. Now, at 2 o'clock the matter has been seized up by Parliament. The debate has started at 2 o'clock. More information was coming from time to time over the trunk line or whatever it is. Surely this House exists. We are not charitable boys of Mr. Chavan. We are running here a Parliament. When he makes a statement there, he has got Mr. Shukla and that tiny Minister. Any one of them can come here and tell us what the position is. You are now entrenched in the Chair. You should not get up till the statement is made.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI D. THENGARI) : Dr. Salig Ram.

डा० शालिग्राम : मि० वाइस चेरमैन, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, they are busy intriguing. We are not unaware of the working of the Congress Party and all that. Our speeches are being mentioned. Mr. Morarji Desai is threatening, blackmailing Parliament, the Congress Party and everybody and all the people are lobbying there against each other. Therefore, we want to be seized of this matter. We are not interested as to how the Working Committee is going to discuss the matter. Mr. Vice-Chairman, will you come with me and see what is going on in the Central Hall? All that lobbying is going on, pressursing and counter-pressurisation. Kindly let us have a statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI D. THENGARI) : Dr. Salig Ram.

डा० शालिग्राम : मि० वाइस चेरमैन, मैं आप का आभारी हूँ कि रेल मंत्री महोदय ने जो बजट सदन में पेश किया है उसपर आपने मुझे अपने विचार रखने का मौका दिया। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि यह एक मुनाफा का बजट है और रेल के किरिये भाडों में कोई वृद्धि नहीं की गई है और मैं इसके लिये मंत्री महोदय को बधाई देता हूँ . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Morarji Desai knows how to pressurise

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

Parliament and his party *(Interruptions)*
He has come He has carried out your instructions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA

Mr Vice-Chairman, I could give an account of what happened in Madhya Pradesh, as we know it here We do not have enough information, but whatever information we have in our possession, we give here As the House knows, the acting Chief Minister, Mr Govind Narain Singh, tendered his resignation and then, along with the leader of the S V D. and the leader of the S S P, they went to see the Governor in the night The reason given by the Governor for not seeing them was that he was unwell and he was sleeping Therefore, they could not meet him in the night

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA . What was the time ?

SHRI VIDHYA CHARAN SHUKLA

I do not remember what time it was The reason given by the Governor was that he was unwell and, therefore, he could not see them After that obviously the Governor met the Chief Minister or got his resignation letter and accepted the resignation letter and asked the present Chief Minister to continue in the capacity of a care-taker Chief Minister After that his health, according to the medical bulletin issued by Raj Bhavan, deteriorated He had high fever with a touch of pneumonia and, as we know, he is a heart patient He was advised to take rest and, therefore, he could not meet the leaders, who wanted to meet him Later on now it has been reported to us, he invited the new leader of S V D, Raja Naresh Chandra Singh, to meet him and invited him to form the Government Raja Naresh Chandra Singh met him at 3 o'clock today and the Governor asked him to form the Government Raja Naresh Chandra Singh has told the Governor that he would like to have time till tomorrow morning before he can say definitely about this matter In the meantime, as the House knows, on the advice tendered by Shri Govind Narain Singh, the session of the Vidhan Sabha was prorogued by the Governor The advice was tendered by Shri Govind Narain Singh Acting on that advice the Governor prorogued the House This is the position that we have at present.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA The position should be clarified I am glad that he has not read out anything Anyway, he has given us this thing We would like to know it because we are hearing this thing that the advice was given by the Chief Minister of the care-taker Government But then the advice was conditional upon the other advice, should it come to that If Raja Naresh Chandra Singh would not be in a position to form the Government, then the House should be prorogued Now, it is being contended in some quarters that this part of the advice, i.e., the inability on the part of Maharaja Naresh Chandra Singh to form the Government

SHRI A. D MANI He is Raja, not Maharaja

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Rajas and Maharajas are the same to me. If he fails, only then the House should be prorogued Maybe, whatever it is, I do not know I should like to know first of all whether the advice was given in writing If so, we should be apprised of the contents of the letter written to the Governor by the Chief Minister of the care-taker Government advising the prorogation Or was it just done in the course of some discussion or other thing ? We should like to know whether that was the only advice given or other advice was given Thirdly, we have seen in the Press that a large number of Congress members from that side have defected to this side We are told here that Mr G N Singh has been here, had consultations secretly with the Central Government and he suggested that the Congress and the defector group led by those people who are coming from S V D should form a coalition Government Mr Chavan said nobody would believe them The Prime Minister did not see him Similarly the Rajmata came here, met Mr Kamaraj, and wanted to have secret deals with them so that some kind of Government could be formed But here, Mr Vice-Chairman, I should like to know whether the prorogation was ordered with a view to helping the game of having the defectors from S V D, about 40, to form an independent group and then make them and the Congress form a coalition Government All these are going on Mr Shukla comes from Madhya Pradesh He knows his home town better, I believe and he should kindly tell us all about this thing All kinds of stories are spreading Again I repeat that the contents of the letter written by Mr G N. Singh . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : If it is...

SHRI M. N. KAUL : It may be oral advice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not know what it was. Whatever it is, kindly give us because it has been challenged that the advice for prorogation was contingent upon something happening or not happening. Therefore, we should like to know also this, whether Mr. G. N. Singh was in town, whom he met, whom the Rajmata met. All these things should be divulged. It is a fit case for a brief discussion. I think it should be cleared up by a brief discussion. If the Lok Sabha has discussed it for two hours or three hours, for whatever time they have discussed, give us 50 per cent time ; let us have 50 per cent time. Tonight I do not think you are ready. I should be very happy if a discussion could take place by tomorrow. You can do that.

SHRI G. H. VALIMOHMED MOMIN : One point of clarification. Is it not open to the Chief Minister to give advice to the Governor ? Is it compulsory on him that he should give it in writing ? Could it not be conveyed orally ?

: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I never said that advice must be always in writing. I have never said that. If it is in writing, we should like to know that. If it is not in writing, we should like to know what exactly was the advice, whether the suggestion for prorogation was contingent upon something or not.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I am surprised to hear Mr. Bhupesh Gupta saying that advice of the present S.V.D. Chief Minister was possibly given to help the Congress to form a Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am not saying that.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : You said that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. K.C. Reddy may prorogue...

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : You said this advice by Mr. G. N. Singh was given in order to help the Congress to form a coalition and form a Government. This is what you said just now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What I said is we do not know the position. Report

are going on that Mr. G. N. Singh is thinking in terms of returning to the Congress. I am not vouching for it. Those who have defected from the S.V.D. are also thinking in terms of returning to the Congress, but at the moment they say it would not be possible for them to straightway join the Congress. Mr. Chavan also said that in the light of the recommendations of the Committee on Defections, if they joined the Congress, they would be treated as defectors, hence they would not be made Ministers. Their reaction is "all right; let us form a group and coalition with the Congress and then, later on, we shall join the Congress." I do not know. Mr. Shukla, you know this ; it is a Raja-Rani thing, Chambal valley dacoits, all that sort of thing. We only know the mass movements of the people and other things. Unfortunately mass movements of the leftists are weak there. But kindly tell us about that.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This is again a very surprising thing that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta should rather talk of Madhya Pradesh as a Raja-Rani and a Chambal valley dacoit area. Madhya Pradesh is much more than that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. Madhya Pradesh is a land of fighting people, but you belong to that category of Raja-Rani, Chambal valley...

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We belong to the other category.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Glory to the people of Madhya Pradesh. Despite this combination of Rajas and bandits they are fighting this Government.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We belong to the land of freedom fighters. We do not belong to the land of Rajas and Ranis.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have not included you.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I am saying there may be a few Rajas and Ranis. That may be. That is not Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh consists of valient and good people. As far as this question of advice is concerned, I am not aware whether that was a conditional advice or it was a pure and simple straight advice given by the Chief Minister But I assume—I emphasize this word assume—that the advice was given in

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

a pure and simple form in which normal advices are given without any precondition of ifs and buts.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why not have mid-term elections in Madhya Pradesh ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This is the present information I have and I have given it to the House. I am not aware of whom Mr. G.N. Singh met when he came to Delhi. He at least did not meet me. I am not aware what his move was, what he was thinking. I am not aware of any of those things.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Are you ready for mid-term elections ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We are ready for anything. As for the charge that prorogation was made to help the Congress, it does not stand to reason because the present Chief Minister, who is trying to keep the S.V.D. in power, could not have had this viewpoint in mind while advising the Governor to prorogue the Assembly.

I do not think there is any further clarification that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has asked for. These are the points he made, and I have clarified them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : One thing...

SHRI A. D. MANI : I hope Mr. Bhupesh Gupta would allow those who have been elected from Madhya Pradesh to speak on the subject. May I ask the Minister of State whether it is not a fact that apart from what has happened in respect of the prorogation the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh made a statement in the Vidhan Sabha only last week saying that there are so many charges against him and he is prepared for an enquiry by a Judge of the Supreme Court? May I ask him further that there is a virtual breakdown of administration in Madhya Pradesh and the Budget has revealed a deficit of Rs. 35 crores—the Government is not working at all—and whether it is not a fact that the people of the State would welcome a stable administration even though it may be an administration consisting of Congressmen and the defectors working as independents? This is the question which I want to put to the Minister of State.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :

It would be highly improper for me to comment upon the conduct of a State Government here. As far as the question of the statement of the Chief Minister is concerned, he is reported to have said on the floor of the Vidhan Sabha that if these charges are made, he is prepared to face an enquiry by a High Court Judge and all that. I do not know whether that means that a regular offer was made to the Government of India to institute an enquiry against him. But this is the statement he is reported to have made in the Vidhan Sabha. We have no further information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why prorogation became necessary? The Speaker has adjourned the Assembly. Why prorogation became necessary? After all the question of forming a new Ministry could be taken up when the Assembly was adjourned. There was no need for prorogation. You have to explain what was the special reason why the Assembly was prorogued. What was the special reason why the Assembly was prorogued when it has already been adjourned and the Speaker indicated that he was adjourning it ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have held this view. In the case of Madhya Pradesh, I would like to remind the hon. Member. When the Congress Chief Minister, Mr. D. P. Mishra, was there and a difficult situation arose, he tendered the advice to the Governor, the same Governor, that the Assembly should be prorogued. The Governor, under the Constitution, is obliged to accept the recommendation of the Chief Minister, and he prorogued the Assembly even then. Now, the Chief Minister made a recommendation that the Assembly be prorogued. The Governor has no discretion ; he has to act on the advice of the Chief Minister. And when the advice was received by the Governor, he prorogued the Assembly. That is the situation.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Is there any distinction between a full-fledged Chief Minister and an acting Chief Minister ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I do not think the Constitution distinguishes between an acting Chief Minister, caretaker Chief Minister and non-caretaker Chief Minister. I do not think there are two categories of Chief Ministers.

SHRI M. N. KAUL : Arising out of the reply given by the hon. Minister just now, it is true that legally speaking, the Constitution makes no difference between a full-fledged Chief Minister and one who has tendered his resignation and is asked to continue as care-taker Chief Minister. Apart from the legal position, the fact remains that in accordance with the convention a care-taker Chief Minister carries on the routine administration, so that the State Government continues to function and there is no vacuum. I think it is a matter worthy of consideration whether the Governor is bound to act promptly on the advice of a care-taker Chief Minister, regarding prorogation. I think that in the case of a care-taker Chief Minister, the Governor may give thought to it. In a matter of this character, he should wait for the advice of the new Chief Minister.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is a matter of personal opinion.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS), 1969-70—
contd

डा० शालिग्राम : रेलवे हमारे देश का सबसे बड़ा इंदारा है। उसमें कई लाख कर्मचारी काम करते हैं। देश की इकतसादी तरक्की का एक बड़ा साधन होने के अलावा देश के भिन्न भिन्न भागों को एक दूसरे से मिलाये रखने और कौमी एकता को बनाये रखने में इसका एक अहम् रोल है। डिफेंस में भी इसकी एक बहुत बड़ी अहमियत है।

स्वतंत्रता के बाद इन 21 सालों में इस इंदारा का काफी विस्तार हुआ है। परन्तु अभी भी रीजनल इम्बैलैन्सेज मौजूद हैं जहां एक इंच मजौद रेलवे लाइन नहीं बनी है। हिमाचल प्रदेश जिसका क्षेत्रफल लगभग 22 हजार चौरवा मील है उसमें कोई बढोत्तरी नहीं हुई है। इसी कारण हिमाचल में कोई इंडस्ट्री या फैक्टरी नहीं बन पाई है। हालांकि सीमेन्ट का पत्थर, कागज का खाम माल और फारेस्ट पर निर्भर काफी इंडस्ट्री लग सकती है। कई साल हुए जब कि कांगडा जिने के मुकाम समेलाटी में एक जगह सीमेन्ट फैक्टरी के लिए सरकार ने लेने का फैसला किया था परन्तु कोई भी इंडस्ट्री-

यलिस्ट फैक्टरी लगाने के लिए तैयार नहीं हुआ और नहीं केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस ओर कदम उठाया। एक बार जब श्री थापर जी को कहा गया था कि वहा इंडस्ट्री लगाओ तो उन्होंने कहा कि यहां बड़ा सामान नहीं जा सकता इसलिए रेल के अभाव के कारण हम कोई इंडस्ट्री नहीं लगा सकते हैं। यही वजह है कि वह इलाका अभी भी पिछड़ा हुआ है इसलिए इस लाइन को ब्राडगेज किया जाय।

इसके अलावा इस पर्वतीय रेलवे पर हम एक मील सफर करते हैं तो किराया दो मील का देना पड़ता है। इस तरह से पर्वतीय रेलवे में सब बाकी देश के भागों से ज्यादा किराया है। यहां से जो माल बाहर जाता है उसकी कीमते तो ज्यादा पड़ती हैं, वहां से जो माल आता है इसका भी मूल्य बढ़ जाता है और किसान को अपने परिश्रम का पूरा फल नहीं मिलता। मैं सरकार से दरखास्त करूंगा कि वह इस किराये की दरों को देश के अन्य भागों के बराबर कर दे ताकि वहां के लोगों को अपनी मेहनत का फल मिल सके।

पंजाब के विभाजन के बाद जो हिस्से पहाड़ी थे और हिंदी भाषी थे और जिनमें ब्राड गेज के टर्मिनल स्टेशन थे वे हिमाचल के बजाय दूसरी सिस्टर स्टेट्स को दे दिये गये हैं। इसके कारण हमारे यह कोई ऐसा स्टेशन नहीं है जहां से हम अपने फलों और दीगर पैदावार को बाहर भेज सकें। इस तरह से इस टर्मिनल स्टेशनों के न होने के कारण हमें बड़ी दिक्कत है। मंत्री महोदय से मैं दरखास्त करूंगा कि इस दिक्कत को दूर करने के लिए कालका से परमानू तक की लाइन को ब्राड गेज बनवायें और शिमले के उस हिस्से को मिला दिया जाए ताकि वहां से हमारी जो पैदावार है उसको बड़े बैगनों में लोड किया जा सके।

इसी तरह मुकरियां से पीग डैम तक जो लाइन प्रोजेक्ट वालों ने बनवाई है, उसे पैसेंजर और गुड्स ट्रैफिक के लिए खोल दिया जाए। मुझे हाल ही में पता लगा था कि प्रोजेक्ट वाले उसे रेलवे के हवाले करने के लिए तैयार हैं