

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister cited just now some of the principles that guided these foreign collaborations. May I know this now from the hon. Minister? Is it a fact that we have allowed collaboration for the manufacture of biscuits, for the manufacture of lipsticks and now even for the manufacture of ice cream? May I know under what guiding principles these foreign collaborations have been allowed?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There is collaboration even for running the Ashoka Hotel.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : I want to know under what guiding principles you have allowed them.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : If there could be foreign collaboration for running the Communist Party of India, why not for running the Ashoka Hotel?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It will be possible to discuss all these matters after the details are available because, then, Members will know what kind of extensions have been allowed during recent years.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, I want your protection. My question has not been replied to. My first question was what were the guiding principles regarding foreign collaboration. Then I asked him why these collaboration agreements for ice cream, lipstick, biscuits, etc. have been allowed. May I know from the Minister what the reasons are?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He said that he was collecting information on it.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : We have, first of all, to know when these were allowed and whether, in any case, these had been extended after the period had expired.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : May I know whether the Government is aware of the deleterious effects of this foreign collaboration on Indian science and know-how and the development of Indian scientific talent and whether the Association of Scientific Workers of India have protested against the liberal import of foreign know-how and foreign collaboration?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Our policy is very clear. So long as indigenous know-how is available, we do not allow foreign know-how to come to our country and it is also our policy to develop technical know-how as far as possible. As the hon. Member may have read in the newspaper, I have been considering a procedure whereby, through a central agency foreign know-how can be taken and then distributed to all the manufacturers in our country. We are considering such a scheme and we shall try how soon we can make decision regarding this.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Will the hon. Minister acquaint this House with the number of cases where letters of intent were issued about three or four years ago and yet the collaboration agreement are not finalised. What is the cause of such delay?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I do not know if the hon. Member has any specific case in mind. There are letters of intent which were issued a number of years ago and where no steps have been taken by the party concerned. Either they have been revoked or they are in the process of being revoked.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. I think the hon. Minister has information, because the Finance Ministry had circulated the information to Members of Parliament. This is very unfair. Madam, I put it to you that the Finance Ministry had submitted information to Members of Parliament showing how many collaboration agreements had been arrived at with the Western countries and various groups of countries and do I understand that the Minister does not have the information?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

B.I.C. DIRECTORS

***416. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of Parliament approached Government in connection with the nomination

of Directors on the Board of the British India Corporation from time to time since 1962; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the Members of Parliament and whether Government have acted on their advice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In September 1962, Shri Dayabhai Patel, M. P., made a suggestion that 'the case of appointment of directors by Government is all the more necessary in view of the large shareholdings in the name of the President of India and the LIC both of which belong to Government'. In reply he was informed that there was no question of the Government taking sides as it would be for the shareholders to elect a Board of Directors and that Government had agreed to an early general meeting on the distinct understanding that the Board of Directors was one the constitution of which was approved by the Central Government. Maharajkumar of Vizianagaram, who was a Member of Parliament, suggested to Government in January 1963, the names of Shri P. N. Sapru, M. P., Dr. K. N. Katju and Shri Sri Prakasa for consideration. It may be mentioned in this connection that the then Chairman of the Company suggested at the Board meeting held on 27th April, 1963 the name of Shri Sri Prakasa for being appointed in the vacancy caused by the resignation of another director and the Board approved the appointment at the same meeting. The appointment was confirmed by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held on the 8th June, 1963.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : As per the statement, certain MPs had suggested the appointment of directors on the BIC Board. One of them is our colleague, hon. Shri Dayabhai Patel, who is not here today. May I know from the Government whether it is not a fact that if they had accepted the suggestion of the M.Ps., at least the B.I.C. would have been working? Is it a fact that a proposal has been submitted to the Government for confirmation of the Managing Director of this organisation? Since the Government has not taken a decision within three months of the submission of

the name, the B.I.C. at present is threatened with a grave financial crisis throwing out about 20,000 persons out of employment. What is the view of the Government? Why have they not accepted the proposal for the managing directorship, as suggested by the shareholders?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Only the other day I replied to this question and I informed the House that we had made enquiries regarding the shareholding of the person who had been suggested by the company as the Managing Director. As soon as the information is available, the Company Law Board will take necessary action.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government whether it is a fact that the B.I.C., which is in a financial crisis, can be salvaged if the Government appoints an authorised controller? Will the Government consider it, instead of appointing a Managing Director, an authorised controller, on behalf of the Government, may be appointed, through the company law amendment?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The first question was directed as to why the Government was delaying the appointment of Managing Director. Now the suggestion is to appoint an authorised agent.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the B.I.C. authorities made a suggestion to the Government either to purchase all their shares or the Government could sell their shares to them, so that the company would not be handicapped by this financial crisis and lack of decision? What has been the reaction of the Government to it? No. 2, may I know whether the Managing Directorship of Mr. Tania, which was approved and recommended by the general body meeting of the B.I.C., is hanging with the Government for the last one year or so? That is another aspect of indecision, because the hon. Minister lacks courage...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please put a question.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether because he lacks courage in the face of the noise made by the so-called 'Young Turks', he does not want to take a decision.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I have already replied and I need not repeat it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : What is it ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am sure if the hon. Member had heard me, he would not have repeated this question. So far as the first part is concerned, it is a fact that the proposal was made and we have said that so far as the Government's shares in the company are concerned, there is no question of disposing of them. So far as the offer of sale by the other party is concerned, it can only be taken into consideration when we know the price at which the other party is prepared to offer them to us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I want to put a question. In the statement there are names of Members of Parliament who are no longer Members of Parliament. Have they been replaced or the same Members continue?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Neither.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Apart from the B.I.C. there are a large number of officers, Chairmen of various corporations and Directors in various concerns which are being financed by the Government. What are the criteria? How are their names suggested? Who sponsors those names? May I know whether any scrutiny is made about their character, their antecedents, their capacity to be Directors or Chairmen of such organisations? Who sponsors those names and how do they come into the picture?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : How is it possible to reply to this question? First of all, we maintain a list of all suitable persons in the Bureau of Public Enterprises. Also, their merit and qualifications while working as Directors in the private sector and public sector is taken into consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam...
(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Arora.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Whether it is Mr. Gupta or Mr. Arora, there is no difference.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : There is some difference between Mr. Lokanath Misra and me. I am decent, he is not.

श्री राजनारायण : यानी, आप खूबसूरत भी है उनसे ।

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know whether the affairs of the B.I.C., particularly of the Cooper Allens, have been hanging fire in the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs for more than one year and every day, since the beginning of January this year, the Government has been changing its mind? This uncertainty has led to a situation in which, while the Woollen branches of the BIC are making some profit, the uncertainty in Cooper Allen and Company is eating away all that profit plus a little more. If it is a fact that the uncertainty regarding the Government's decision on Cooper Allen and Company, is leading to unemployment and loss, why does not the Government arrive at a suitable decision about the Cooper Allens immediately?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am sure the hon. Member must have heard the reply which I gave the other day (Interruptions). May I just complete it? I pointed out that the loss during the last two years was not only on account of Cooper Allen unit of the Company. There is also loss in the other two units. I also repeatedly said that so far as company affairs are concerned, it is not the function of the Company Law Department to do this thing or that thing. Only when a thing is not regularly done, action can be taken when matter has been brought to our notice. We have only tried that the Cooper Allen unit does not close down.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : That is very good of you, but there is lay-off.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The recent development is that we have taken up this matter with the Defence Department...

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, हमारा सिम्पुल प्रश्न यह है कि इस सदन में हम लोगों ने बी० आइ० सी० के सम्पूर्ण मामले पर विचार करने के लिए प्रस्ताव दिया है। मैं आपके द्वारा सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस पर विचार होगा या नहीं। अगर उस पर विचार

होगा, तो फिर इस प्रकार से यहां पर सदन का समय नष्ट न किया जाता चाहिये।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next Question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is an important question. He has not given an answer.

श्री राजनारायण : इसका जवाब तो मिले।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You send a notice.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, मैं कह रहा हूं कि वी० आइ० सी० के सम्पूर्ण मामले पर विचार करने के लिए प्रस्ताव दिया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस मामले पर एक दिन सदन में बहस करे। लेकिन सरकार ने अभी तक इसके बारे में कोई जवाब नहीं दिया है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will look into that. Next question, Mr. Gilbert.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is the answer? He said Shri Dahyabhai Patel approached him. He should tell us what he told him. He should tell us as to what name he suggested, what suggestion Shri Dahyabhai Patel gave. It is cowardice.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, हमारा एक प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर है। आज से कीव 10 दिन पहले हमने वी० आइ० सी० के मामले पर विचार करने के लिए नोटिस दिया था और अभी तक हमें उसके बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार उस पर बहस करना चाहती है या नहीं?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I do not know.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, जो नोटिस हम आपको देते हैं वह समय के अन्दर आपके सामने पेश होता है या नहीं। आप कैसे कहते हैं कि नोटिस दीजिये।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. When notices of Short Notice Question, Calling Attention, or Short Duration Discussion are given, they come to the Chair. I am not able straightway to reply to you here. I am to look into it and see what decision was taken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Your office should know. You have rejected the discussion. We have got the reply from your office. We are surprised. Why are you saying you do not know?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If it is rejected, it is rejected.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You cannot have it both ways.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is an important problem.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, यह वी० आइ० सी० का जो मुसला है, वह कोई मामला मुसला नहीं है। यह एक बहुत बड़ा मुसला है जिम पर यहाँ बहस होनी चाहिये।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would request the Members to see me in the Chamber.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is the use of seeing? We have the assurance that this matter will be looked into because he met Shri Dahyabhai Patel in order to get his suggestion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I cannot give any assurance from the Chair here. If you come to the Chamber at 1 O'clock, I will call for the file and see what answer was given and then I shall discuss. Now the next question.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Madam, on a point of order. You called for the next question just now and after that...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You are right.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : After you called for the next question some Members continue to shout. Therefore, we want your decision whether this thing will continue in future.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think the Member is quite right. In future after the next question is called nothing shall go on record, whatever the Members say.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam you cannot change the rule. Where does the rule say that? We are not children. Where do the rules say that? Show me. You cannot expunge like that. You have to go by the rules passed by this House. It cannot go like that. We shall not allow. We are bound by the rules.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीय, आपकी व्यवस्था का मतलब क्या है ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Just because an hon. Member gets up and says something you say you will not allow it to go into the proceedings. Everything shall go on record except those things as are expunged under the rules. You can adjourn the House. You cannot change the rules of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There are certain things that have to be done in a dignified way. The Question Hour is in the hands of the Chair. The Chair has full discretion when to stop a question. When you raise a point of order after the next question is called and if it pertains to the previous question, that is not permissible. I will not make it permissible at all. Therefore, I stand by the ruling I have given.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I object to the ruling. We object to that ruling. You have to go by the rules. We cannot accept that position. Under which rule are you giving that ruling?

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आपकी व्यवस्था से कतई असहमत हूँ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You cannot, Madam. You are bound by the rules.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीय, मैं उनसे पहले से खड़ा हूँ। जब एक प्रश्न पर चर्चा हो रही थी तो आप दूसरे प्रश्न पर चली गई। तो उस प्रश्न के बारे में व्यवस्था का सवाल उठाया जा सकता है और नियम के अन्दर

उठाया जा सकता है। आपने इस समय यह व्यवस्था दी कि हम जिस प्रश्न पर हैं, उससे आगे चले गये हैं, तो व्यवस्था का प्रश्न नहीं उठाया जा सकता है। मैं आपकी व्यवस्था से नतमस्तक नहीं हो सकता हूँ। अगर आप समझती है कि यह आपका डिस्केशन है तो आप अपने डिस्केशन को गलत रूप से इस्तेमाल कर रही है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No point. Please sit down. Please sit down.

श्री राजनारायण : आपको अपनी व्यवस्था पर पुनर्विचार करने चाहिये।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Right or wrong, the ruling of the Chair has to be obeyed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I protest. The ruling must be in accordance with the rules of the House.

श्री राजनारायण : चेयर की हलिया सदस्यीय प्रथा को ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. It is not our intention to quarrel with you. You certainly can ask us to obey your ruling. We are not questioning your right, but you cannot say right or wrong the ruling shall obtain. If that is so, in all humility ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have told you that the Question Hour is in the hands of the Chair and the Chair's discretion is final. Mr. Gilbert.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am not questioning that. You cannot expunge that. You are to expunge according to the rule.

(Interruption)

श्री राजनारायण : माननीय, मैं आपकी आज्ञा शिरोधार्य करने के लिए तैयार हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आज्ञा का उल्लंघन न हो। मगर आप से विनम्रता के साथ जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर चेयर अपने डिस्केशन गलत तरीके से इस्तेमाल करता है तो यह मेम्बर का डिस्केशन है कि वह उसको न मने।

(Interruptions.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY : The question is very simple. Who regulates the flow of questions in the Question Hour? The Chairman or the Members? That is a simple question. I think in every Parliament it is the Chairman that regulates the conduct of business.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : It is not right that two Members should speak at the same time, and again they do not refer to any rule. They do not follow the procedure. They have to obey the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Don't write.

(Shri Bhupesh Gupta spoke)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think what Mr. Ruthnaswamy has drawn the attention of the House to, that the Chair regulates the Question Hour as all hours of the day—and more so, the Question Hour—that is final. Yes, Mr. Chaturvedi, you will read the answer again.

MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS STOPPING AT UNSCHEDULED HALTS

*417. SHRI A. C. GILBERT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has been issuing orders from time to time to stop Mail and Express trains at certain stations where there is no scheduled halt in order to suit the convenience of some Members of Parliament and other influential persons;

(b) if so, since when this facility is being given and the number of Members of Parliament who have been given this facility to date;

(c) whether this facility is proposed to be provided to all the Members of Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (d) In a very few cases such a request was acceded to. Normally, all out of way stoppages or detentions at stations are discouraged unless circumstances are exceptional and warrant a departure from the accepted principle or on very urgent and special request.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT : May I know whether it is a fact that there is a directive from the late Prime Minister that the trains should not be stopped at a non-scheduled halt or station because the passengers are inconvenienced and, if so whether it has been modified recently?

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI : Madam, there is no doubt that there was a directive from the late Prime Minister....

SHRI A. C. GILBERT : Read it out please.

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI : It was Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. The extract of letter from the late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru to the then Minister of Railways expressing his strong disapproval to trains being detained/held up for the convenience of VIPs etc., is reproduced below :—

"I think that we are completely wrong in upsetting the public because VIPs or high officials travel. I just do not see why this should be done at all. I doubt if it is done anywhere in the world. I am entirely opposed to any normal traffic, whether in Railways or on the roads, being held up because of VIPs. I think the Railway Board should be so informed."

In the same connection, Madam, may I mention that on 1-1-1964 directions were issued by the Railway Board? If I have the permission, I may read that also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If it is not very long.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : It is fairly long.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You may give the summary then.

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI : It says—

"No Mail, Express or Passenger train shall be stopped out-of-course merely for the convenience of detaining or