

RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, the 27th March, 1968 the
7th Chaitra, 1890 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

THE REPORTED PLOT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) TO OVERTHROW THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Madam Deputy Chairman, with your kind permission I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported plot of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) to overthrow the present Government of Assam and form a sovereign Government in collusion with the underground Nagas.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Madam, we have seen reports in the Press regarding the subject. However, from the reports received from the State Government of Assam it appears that one Bapute Saikia of village Paninora, P.S. Titabar, District Sib-sagar, was apprehended on 6th March, 1968 when he was returning to his village after receiving training in sabotage and subversion from Naga Hostiles. Subsequently thirteen others suspected to have received similar training were also arrested. One unexploded plastic bomb together with a fuse wire was recovered from possession of one of the arrested persons. A note book containing instructions about methods of preparation and use of bombs and explosives was also recovered from possession of another person. Further investigation is in progress.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Eastern India is the area which appears to be the fertile venue for the network of

these Marxist Communists where they come in contact with the Chinese across the Himalayan region, across the border, and even they have instructions regarding the manufacture of explosives and bombs. May I know from the hon. Home Minister whether after what has happened, after he has discovered about their nefarious activities, he has decided to ban the Marxist Communist Party as a political party in India. If not, what are his justifications for not doing so?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The facts are that the persons arrested include some members of the Communist Party (Marxist), at least those who are active members of the party. But the provincial unit of the party in Assam has issued a statement saying that these people have been expelled from the party. This is one fact. I am not taking any view in the matter. I am merely stating a fact. As far as the whole matter is concerned, the entire matter is under investigation. Unless the investigation is complete I cannot express any view about it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I do not know whether the attention of the hon. Home Minister has been drawn to this particular news item which is a front page news in the "Hindustan times" today. It says: "The Chinese Embassy in Delhi had given money to a Marxist in Kerala, the Kerala Chief Minister Mr. Nambudiripad disclosed in the Kerala Assembly today. The Chief Minister who was replying to a question said that Mr. Kunnikal Narayanan who had received the money had been suspended from the Marxist Communist Party." This seems to be the *modus operandi* of the Left Communist Party. As soon as somebody is caught by the Home Ministry or is detected, he is immediately suspended from the party. He

[Shari Lokanath Misra]

might be belonging stealthily to the party all the same. It is all a show. Does not the Home Minister believe that the Left Communist are capable of anything? Here is a repetition of the same thing, what they have reported to the Home Minister. They have reported to the Home Minister that as soon as they came to know that he was in league with the Chinese they have suspended him in Assam. Here is another fact reported from Kerala which is stated by Mr. Namboodiripad himself, the Chief Minister of Kerala, that as soon as they came to know about it they have ousted him from the party. How long will ousting from the party and detection go on? This is a hide and seek game. As soon as you find somebody is in league with China, they immediately admit it and make a show of ousting him from the party. You cannot go on detecting everybody in the Left Communist Party. May I know whether this has received the attention of the hon. Home Minister, the news item that has appeared here, and what is he going to do about it?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I have seen this report only this morning. Whether it is a *modus operandi* or a sort of covering or some other thing is a matter for one to study and take a view. The question of banning a political party is entirely a different proposition which requires very careful consideration and a political assessment of the matter. This is the present reaction of the Government. But I am very glad that the hon. Member is appreciative of the difficulties of the Home Ministry.

SHRI P. C. MITRA (Bihar): When the State unit of the Marxist Communist Party had admitted that they had expelled those persons, that means

that they were their members. They have accepted it. Ultimately on a certain ground or other there might be a certain difference in approach only. They might have expelled one man or two men or fourteen men. But the whole question is that they have accepted that those people were belonging to the Communist Party (Marxist). It is not surprising that the Communist Marxists are indulging in disloyal and conspiratorial activities in Assam and other parts of the country. Formerly they refused to admit that they had any collusion with China. But since the formation of the Communist-dominated United Front Government in West Bengal and Kerala they have thrown away their mask and are openly behaving as the hirelings of the Chinese. Further, since 1962 as friendship between China and Pakistan grew, both wings of the Communist Party of India . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you should come to the question.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: . . . found the Ayub Khan regime in Pakistan progressive and stopped criticising Pakistan in any manner. The tragedy of the whole thing is that all political parties including the Congress who are loyal and believe in democracy have failed to realise the danger that confronts us, and besides some of the political parties who profess to be democratic

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Come to the question.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: . . . they do not hesitate to become partners of the Communist Party in the United Front Governments. I would like to know from the Government whether the explosive experts have properly analysed, made any analysis of the potentiality of the plastic bomb that

has been seized; secondly, whether the Centre has taken up investigation itself besides the State Government investigation; whether there are reasons to believe that they had any part in blowing up trains and in armed dacoities in that area; whether the party had any hand in Gauhati loot and arson. Besides, how did the Communist Party (Marxist) get so much of fund by which they could fight so many elections. They only criticise the Congress for getting certain funds from some business houses.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot go on like this.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: We would like to know from the Government whether they have made any inquiry about the sources of their funds for fighting so many elections and for holding demonstrations, etc.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has asked half a dozen questions. One is whether we have examined the explosives. This is a part of the investigation, again. These explosives normally are expected to be very dangerous. This much inference I can draw from previous experience about this matter.

Madam, the other question is, the hon. Member wanted to know from us whether they had anything to do with the incidents at Gauhati. The Gauhati incident is a matter of inquiry before a judicial tribunal or a judicial inquiry commission. I do not think I can express any view about this matter at this stage.

As far as the funds are concerned, I have no information as to where they get the funds from.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Gujarat): Left Communists from Kerala have received money from the Chinese Embassy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are fifteen names on the Calling Attention Notice. There are also many other Members who want to ask questions. I would request you all please to stick to asking clarification and not make any commentary or statement.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): The statement of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is so cautious and so guarded that it does not say anything about the main question which we have put. The Finance Minister of Assam has charged the Communist Party (Marxist) in the State Assembly and because of that the whole question came up. And we, Members, are rather anxious to know whether the Home Minister is really agreeable with the assessment of the Finance Minister of Assam which he has given in the State Assembly or not, because some of the facts which the Finance Minister himself has expressed there, are that there has been a series of incidents in which the Communist Party (Marxist) is directly involved in the whole thing. Because of that fact, we have to ask certain questions. And I hope, since this is such an important thing and this is the last day for Rajya Sabha, that you will kindly permit us . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, I will not be able to cover the whole list.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The main thing, as Mr. P.C. Mitra, said is this. We know that when the Gauhati riots were there, at that time within the cycle factory the Communist Party (Marxist) workers held a procession. They gave slogans "From Gauhati to Titabar". In Darjeeling, a conference of the Communist Party (Marxist) was held and such slogans were raised as "माओ-त्से-तुंग को लाल सलाम".

[Shri Krishan Kant.]

लाल सेना को लाल सलाम'' And Mr Tripati in his statement has said that in the railway sabotage in Tripura it was not merely the Nagas, but they were hand in glove with the Left Communist Party of India. And we find that they are in complete league with the Federal Government of Nagaland and with Pakistan. There is the fundamental question of violence in all these things. After what Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad has said today, what we have learnt from Naxalbari and what we have learnt from Andhra Pradesh, the fundamental question has arisen that under article 355 of the Constitution, the Government of India, the Central Government, is responsible for internal disorder and external aggression on the country. In the light of all these things, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what he thinks, what is his assessment and what is proposed to be done.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Madam, as far as the facts are concerned, I think I am expected to give my facts. As I have said, the whole matter is under investigation. Some statements are being made by those people before the Magistrate and police, etc. I cannot make any reference to it. This is my limitation. I understand my limitations and they are legitimate limitations. I say that some of the persons arrested belong to the Communist (Marxist) Party. If he wants my views about that party, certainly he can come and discuss with me and I can discuss; on some other occasion. I can give the assessment of the party. I entirely disagree with their tactics and their going about these matters. Certainly, all these incidents have put that party in a sort of dock and they owe an explanation to the country as to what their intentions are and what

their attitude is towards all these matters.

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA (Assam): Madam, in that north-east frontier region several anti-State, anti-national, divisive forces and subversive elements have combined together which has been revealed as a result of the arrests made in Titabar. Is it not a fact that in the above arrests are two Pakistanis, one who was deported from India and who later clandestinely entered India and another Pakistani who was served with a 'Quit India' notice.

There are other questions also. Though the Communist (Marxist) Party has disowned responsibility in the matter they have not stated when and why the unit of that party was disaffiliated. And was any specific action taken against them? Is it not a fact that two leading Marxist Communist Party leaders of Jorhat, one who is a member of the Jorhat Municipal Board and another who is an executive committee member of the District Committee of the Party, are absconding since the arrest of these persons and is it not also a fact that they are the master minds behind the incidents as confessed by the arrested persons?

And again, the Nagas, the Mizos, the Pakistanis and the Chinese, all have combined together. Is it not a fact that some Nagas have gone to Peking? A report has appeared in the Press that they have also met Mao Tse-tung? Is it not a fact that some Mizos have also gone to Peking and they are contemplating to hold a conference in the first week of April there? Is it not a fact that on the 12th March there was a broadcast from the Peking Radio wherein it is stated that the Nagas, the Mizos and other tribals are rising in revolt against the Indian Government? If all these things stated by me are facts, will

the Home Minister be pleased to state what the Government of India proposes to do in this matter? And is it not also a fact that the Lachit Sena which was behind the incidents in Gauhati is also in league with the Nagas and other anti-State elements. This Lachit Sena issued a notice, their latest notice, in which they have said—

"It is hereby notified that all non-Assamese persons those who are holding offices irrespective of categories and departments, business contracts, agencies, etc. in Assam should vacate their respective offices and other business affairs including holding of lands, of buildings, within a reasonable period not exceeding the date of 30th June of 1968 and away to their own home-lands.

The non-implementation of this general notice shall be dealt with severely for which we shall never hold responsible for and direct action sponsored by this organisation".

It is signed by the Lachit Sena.

Is it not a fact that the Chinese have set up powerful transmitter sets just across the Northeast Agency and they are regularly broadcasting special programmes meant for the tribals living in the Northeast Frontier Agency and they are sending garments and food parcels as presents to these tribals?

If these are facts, may I know from the hon. Home Minister what specific action he proposes to take to deal with all these subversive and divisive forces?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has very rightly expressed his anxiety and I share that anxiety that Eastern India is certainly an area which is being subjected to subversive activities by some of these

anti-social elements. There is certainly some sort of a spiritual unity among these subversive elements, the Nagas and the Mizos, and even possibly in the plains of Assam.

Madam, Government has taken a very serious note of this and they will be ruthlessly dealt with, those elements in that part who are taking to such things. Action has already been started against some people who were involved in this Lachit Sena activities; some preventive action has been taken against them. And this investigation itself shows that the Government is quite alert and very watchfully pursuing the matter.

SHRI ABID ALI (Maharashtra) : They are ignoring the other Communists.

श्री जगत नारायण (हरियाणा) : मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब से यह दरियाफत करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनके इल्म में है कि चीन-नवाज कम्युनिस्ट आसाम और बंगाल को मिला कर एक नया देश बनाना चाहते हैं और उसमें वही हालत पैदा करना चाहते हैं जो कि माओ-त्से-तुंग ने चीन में पैदा की थी कि एक दो सूबेजात पर कब्जा कर लिया फिर उससे आगे चले और जैसे कि च्यांगकाईशेक को निकाल कर बहार किया था ? तो क्या उनकी नालेज में है कि चीननवाज कम्युनिस्ट इस किस्म का कोई मनसूबा बना रहे हैं कि आसाम और बंगाल को एक बना कर एक नया देश बना लें और फिर उसी तरह से जिस तरह कि माओ-त्से-तुंग ने चीन में किया था इस गवर्नमेंट को ओवर थ्रो करें और सारे हिन्दुस्तान में कम्युनिस्ट राज कायम कर दें ।

मेरा दूसरा सवाल है, मैं उनकी तवज्जह इस पर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि अब बंगाल का मामला सेंटर के हाथ में है और वहां पर नक्सलबाड़ी ग्रुप की मीटिंग हुई थी उसमें—

"Pro-Naxalbari group Bhattachari announced that the pro-Naxalbari

[श्री जगत नारायण]

Communists would not contest the coming mid-term elections because 'not parliamentarianism, but a mass struggle was the only weapon to destroy the citadel of imperialism and feudalism.'

तो क्या जो लोग इस किस्म की मीटिंग वहां करते हैं, उनके मुताल्लिक सेंटर का क्या रवैया है ? किस किस्म का उनके साथ सलूक करना चाहते हैं ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I expressed our attitude in this matter. I do not think anything more is required.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh) : May I know, Sir, whether the hon'ble Minister is aware that goods with Chinese markings have been widely found in Assam and the eastern region and other parts of the country ? In reply to one question the hon. Minister had stated that investigations are being carried on. May I know from him what has been the result of investigations, whether it has shown large-scale infiltration of people with Chinese ideas bringing these goods with them and whether any of these infiltrators have been apprehended in the eastern region, specially Assam ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, as far as the other investigation to which the hon. Member has made reference is concerned, I think I will have to wait for final information about this matter. I have not got any information at the present moment with me. I can certainly give it to him when I get it.

Sir, these types of things do occur; I do agree that across the international frontiers some sort of smuggling of these goods takes place sometimes. So that is a matter for further investigation.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Madam Deputy Chairman, it is well known now that some of the

important leaders of the Marxist Communist Party of India like Shah Syed Hossain and Mr. Suren Hazarika are related with all these subversive activities. While appreciating the efforts of the hon. Home Minister and also his statement that the leftist Communist Party is under obligation to this country to explain; may we know, Madam, why the Government is not categorically asking the leftist Communist Party that either they should cut off their ties openly and condemn this sort of activity or it will be treated that this leftist Communist Party is also part and parcel of the organisation which is carrying on these activities under their guidance ? In the name of democracy they sit on the floor of the House, preach democracy and criticise the Government as if they are the only protagonists of democracy and on the other hand they are carrying on subversive activities. Will he assure this House and the country that if these leftist Communists do not sever their relations with people who are directly concerned with these activities, all possible action shall have to be taken even of banning the Party ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I have no doubt that this is not merely a question of assurance. This is the bounden duty of this Government to proceed against any element which is an antinational element and which really threatens the integrity of this country. This is our general attitude about this matter.

As for the Party severing their connections with these elements, at least they have said so. When this matter was being discussed in the other House some of them said that these party members have been expelled. I have stated the facts. What should be the assessment of that statement is another political matter which will be gone into. I am not expressing any view, and I would request the honourable House

not to press me to give my views at this stage.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA-GOPALAN) (Madras) : May I know, Madam, whether it is a fact that the Lachit Sana, which is an underground organisation, in collusion with the underground Nagas, is getting help from the Chinese Government themselves, and whether they have anything to do with these subversive activities in Assam ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I think I answered this question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : I do not want to put any question.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY (Madras) : May I know, Madam, whether in the Home Minister's view it is political prudence not to ban the Communist Party (Marxist) in India, and if in his democratic calculations the Communists Marxists cannot smash our democratic set-up and the Constitution, and whether the Communist Marxists will not be able to expose the strategic State of Assam and the whole country to the Chinese warlords ? Is the hon. Minister himself sure of his firm ground ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as my grounds are concerned, they are very firm. I can assure the honourable House about that matter.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Andhra Pradesh) : May I know, Madam, whether the police has recovered from left Communist workers two-hand-written books containing diagrams of plastic bombs with instructions to make and use them to blow up railway stations and tracks ? I want to know whether the information published in the Hindustan Times of 15-3-68 has reached the Government.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Madam, that is a part of my statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Madam, there are two parties going by the name of Communists. Only one of them is present here. I wish it was taken up yesterday when the other party was here. But I am surprised that from the Congress Benches, Members are trying to pressurise the Government to ban a particular party.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY : Why not ? If we are convinced that you are doing a great harm to the country, we are entitled to pressurise the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You may say what you like. But we shall reply in the elections. We shall do it in West Bengal. Wait a little.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY : I accept your challenge.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Do not shout here. Now, Madam, may I ask my question ? When I am putting my question you are shouting. I am entitled to say that you are pressurising the Government. I did not utter a single word when you were putting questions.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you are dealing through the Chair with the Home Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I was just asking a question and immediately that gentleman got up. Yes, you have come closer to the Swatantra Party. They are demanding the banning of both the Communist Parties while you want one party to be banned.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I have a submission to make. Would you kindly yield ? Madam, if anybody is the nearest to the Swatantra Party it is probably Comrade Bhupesh Gupta.

[Shri Lokanath Misra]

because in the language of the left Communists Swatantra is reactionary and Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is also a reactionary, a Right Communist. Therefore, he is the closest to us.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Therefore, we can understand. The Swatantra Party, hon'ble Members will agree, is in the utterest confusion. First of all, let me deal with this thing. Mr. Chavan has said that the Assam Party, Marxist Communist, has disowned its association with these subversive activities. Anyhow, he has admitted that. He should also know that the all-India leadership of the Marxist Communist Party have disowned this kind of activities; they have completely dissociated themselves from this kind of thing. This is the statement coming from the leadership of the Communist Party (Marxist). Their politbureau and their Central Committee have said that. I think Mr. Chavan, being a political leader of a party and the Home Minister of the country would take it seriously when it comes from the leadership of a party which is represented in Parliament and which has occupied important positions in two or three States. The Chief Minister of Kerala is a Marxist Communist.

Now, secondly Peking Radio has been quoted by Mr. Purkayastha. I was very amused to listen to his speech. He was quoting Peking Radio. But does he not know that Peking Radio is abusing day in and day out Namboodiripad, Jyoti Basu and the whole lot of Marxist Communist leaders as tools of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, as reactionaries, as neo-revisionists and what not ? The kind of abuse to which we were treated three years ago by Peking Radio is being made against the Marxist Communist leaders now. How the Marxist Communist leaders take it, is a different matter. But they are being

abused. You should quote that also. Therefore, that should also be borne in mind.

Now, with regard to links and other things; well, Madam Deputy Chairman, some kind of a bomb was found in Lal Bazar. Immediately it was said that the Bomb had Chinese markings. Now the Police after investigations, have found that the bomb was manufactured in Calcutta—very much of Indian and Calcutta make. It is your Government that found this out, not my Government. Therefore, these are all propaganda stunts. But I think Mr. Chavan will seriously take what the Marxist leadership has said. They have thoroughly repudiated this kind of thing, they have dissociated themselves from this kind of thing and they have denounced this thing. Not only that, their journals have written about this and their leaders have made statements. I do not wish to go beyond that. I go by the public documents which they have issued.

Now with regard to this money order business, Madam Deputy Chairman, some day we will hear that the Chinese are helping the wrecking of the Indian Constitution and the wrecking of the Indian democracy by sending money through Mr. Chavan to the Marxist Communist Party. They say money order is doing this thing. Find out what exactly it is. And who disclosed this ? The Marxist Communist leader himself has disclosed this according to the newspaper. I do not know what it is, but Mr. Namboodiripad is being quoted to damn Mr. Namboodiripad. It is a wonderful logic of the Swatantra Party. Anyhow we will know what it is. We know this paper and how it reports. As far as the question of individuals is concerned, let us find out who these individuals are, what they are doing and what their case is. Why build up this kind of propaganda ?

Madam Deputy Chairman, I take the entire thing now as another build-up by the reactionary forces in the country to disrupt the country's democratic and Left movement, especially keeping in view the West Bengal elections. They want to disrupt the United Front . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Put your question, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Many have asked questions. I am asking the Home Minister whether he is aware—and if he is not aware, whether he would clear up his ignorance—that this build up now is being indulged in by certain quarters in order to create confusion in the left and democratic camp where the parties are coming closer together, and above all, in the United Front of West Bengal which is facing the mid-term elections. Therefore, finally I say, Mr. Chavan can easily call the leaders of the Marxist Communist Party and discuss with them. They have made their position clear. Madam Deputy Chairman, this is very very unfair. I wish that this motion was taken up when the Marxist Communist Party leaders were in the House yesterday. The House has gone on by extension. But it does not matter. I shall defend every single partner of my United Front when they are subjected to this kind of mendacious political attack by the reactionary forces, especially by the Swatantra Party . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Madam, on a point of order. I would like to have your ruling on this. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta calls us reactionaries. He calls himself reactionary . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Let me finish my sentence. He calls himself reactionary in the language of the Chinese Radio. Now, hereafter he will have to use the word "relative reactionary" instead of "reactionary"

because there are certain parties which are "relative reactionaries" and certain others which are a "absolute reactionaries."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is it a point of order ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Madam, you kindly give your ruling on this

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is Peking Radio a matter of point of order ? We are not talking about Peking Radio so that we have to raise a point of order on what Peking Radio should say or should not say. I say, as far as you are concerned, you are absolutely reactionary, 110 per cent reactionary. The Congress is "relative reactionary" in relation to you. There is no doubt about that. I give you the credit. Therefore, Madam . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please put your question,

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : So, all I say is we are being treated to this kind of thing. I think the Home Minister should not follow in the steps of Gulzarilal Nanda. I find that there is an attempt on his part not to follow in the steps of the discredited Mr. Nanda and his White Papers. I would tell him whenever you have any doubt with regard to such matters about any party, whether this party or my party or any other party, have an honest discussion and get it from the leaders of the parties. Nothing is secret with us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1966-67) OF THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LTD. AND RELATED PAPERS
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES