

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 14th February, 1968/
the 25th Magha, 1889 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*31. [Transferred to the 22nd February, 1968.]

ABOLITION OF PRIVY PURSES

*32. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:†
SHRI A. D. MANI:
SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH
BRAR:
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:
SHRI A. M. TARIQ:
SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his talks held with the Princes of erstwhile States in India in the last week of December, 1967; and

(b) the formula, if any, evolved on the issue of the abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges of the ex-Rulers of Indian States?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) I conveyed to the representatives of the Princes, the Government's intention to abolish Privy Purses and Privileges of Rulers.

(b) No formula for transitional arrangements has yet been finally evolved.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Mr. Chairman, negotiations are certainly desirable, but they can succeed only if there is a broad agreement on the principle. Is the hon. Home Minister in a position to state, in his talks with the Princes, that the Princes are prepared to see eye to eye with the Government on the principle of the issue?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. K. Vaishampayen.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I do not understand this wonderful idea about negotiations. If there is general agreement on the principle, negotiations are not necessary at all. Sometimes negotiations for that matter also are called for.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister of Home Affairs whether any suggestion was made by him to the Princes that if they are not in a position to accept the abolition of privy purses, they might accept the principle of income-tax on the privy purses so that they may share the burden with the common man?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, the talks had not reached the stage of making suggestions and counter-suggestions. I conveyed the intention of the Government to them and they said they were representatives of the Concord and they will go back to report this and that a meeting of the Concord will be called early. I was expecting a meeting of the Concord to be called in the latter part of January and when it was not called, I wrote to the Maharajah of Baroda inviting his attention to this, and he has written back saying that a meeting is being called some time in the latter part of March.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, may I know if the Home Minister has set any time-limit for the negotiations? Or does he propose to make these negotiations endless just as the talks with the Nagas? May I also remind him . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making a speech. Put a straight question and you will get a straight answer.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, part (b) of my question is: May I take this opportunity to remind him that the negotiations with the Princes about the merger of States were carried on by one of his illustrious predecessors very expeditiously. May I know . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't compare predecessors with successors.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: . . . if he will follow that example?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, every one will have to follow his own methods. I cannot try to imitate anybody else. And the person who was referred to is too great a man for me to try to imitate. In this matter, Sir, the idea is not to drag on the negotiations unduly long. But at the same time, the intention is not also to rush matters.

شری اے - ایم - طارق : میں وزیر صاحب سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں ویسے یہ بات بڑی مختصر ہے کہ بیرونی پرس جاری رکھنا ہے یا نہیں رکھنا ہے - اتنی سی بات ہے اور اتنی سی بات پر اتنا وقت صرف ہو رہا ہے اور اب تک سرکار یہ فیصلہ نہیں کر پائی ہے کہ خود سرکار کی منشا کیا ہے - سرکار ختم کرنا چاہتی ہے یا اس سمجھوتیشن کو جاری رکھنا چاہتی ہے - تو میں چوہان صاحب سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ خود سرکار کی پالیسی کیا ہے ؟

[श्री ए० एम० तारिक : मैं वजीर साहब से यह जानना चाहता हूँ वैसे यह बात बड़ी मुश्किल है कि प्रीवी पर्स जारी रखना है या नहीं रखना है । इतनी सी बात है और इतनी सी बात पर इतना वक्त सर्फ हो रहा है और अब तक सरकार यह फैसला नहीं कर पाई है कि खुद सरकार की मंशा क्या है । सरकार खत्म करना चाहती है या इस सिचुएशन को जारी रखना चाहती है । तो मैं चव्हाण साहब से जानना चाहता हूँ कि खुद सरकार की पालिसी क्या है?]

श्री बाई० बी० चव्हाण : तारीफ साहब ने सुना होगा, मैंने पहले कहा कि यह सवाल उठाना आवश्यक नहीं है । हमारा इरादा जो है, वह हमने साफ तरह से उनके सामने रख दिया है ।

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार यह सूचित करेगी कि मंत्री परिषद् में जो भूतपूर्व राजे लोग शामिल हैं . . .

श्री ए० डी० मणि : कौन कौन हैं ?

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे माननीय श्री करन सिंह बैठे हुए हैं और एक और हैं, नाम मैं भूल रहा हूँ, जो छोटे से लड़के हैं—मानु प्रकाश सिंह । इन लोगों की प्रिवी पर्स के बारे में क्या राय है; क्या सरकार को इसकी जानकारी है और यह लोग जब बाहर जब किसी समिति में बैठते हैं, अपने राजाओं की, उस समय अपनी क्या सम्मति देते हैं? आर्गेनाइज्ड ढंग पर किस तरह से सरकार की नीति के विरोध में वातावरण तैयार करते हैं—क्या इसकी जानकारी सरकार को है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a question of joint responsibility.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you have put your question.

श्री राज नारायण : श्रीमन्, यह बहुत ही प्रामाणिक है; क्योंकि देखा जाये

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I was supposed to answer about my talks with the Princes and I have given the information that I have got. Sir, Rajnarainji has unnecessarily raised an unnecessary question. I do not think I can reply to that

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, सुन नहीं पाया, क्या उत्तर हुआ ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right; the answer has been given.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, हमने सुना ही नहीं। मंत्री जी की फिर से कहने दीजिये।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I say that the points that you have raised are not relevant to the question that has been put. That is the submission I made.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, पाइण्ट आफ आर्डर है, क्वेश्चन को रिलेवेन्सी क बारे में। आप अथॉरिटी है, क्वेश्चन प्रासंगिक है या नहीं है। उचित है या नहीं है, इसके सर्वे-सर्वा आप हैं, जज करने वाले हैं। सरकार नहीं कह सकती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have stated your viewpoint. He has stated his view. I cannot interfere further.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: On many occasions, the Princes have expressed their opinion that their privileges and purses are not negotiable. On the other hand, the Law Ministry is of the opinion that the privileges and the purses may be abolished even without amending the Constitution. That being the case, may I know from the hon. Minister how he can reconcile these two positions. Secondly, I would like to know when he will be in a position to tell the country as to in which way he will be able to abolish the privy purses as promised to this House and the country.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I do not think this question really arises, I have explained Government's position in the matter because it was a deliberate decision of the Government to discuss this matter with the Princes. What we can do legally or not is a different matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, you said you will give me an opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the Concord of Princes is a State within a State. . .

DR. B. N. ANTANI: Sir, I stood up before you said next question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must leave it to my discretion in some matters.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: Sir, you should stick to the rule. The next question had been called by you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given him the impression that I was asking him to get up. Therefore, I allowed him. You must leave it to me. You can rest assured that hereafter when I say 'next question,' nobody will be allowed to raise any question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the Concord of Princes is a State within a State and why so much time is being consumed on this simple question whether they agree to the abolition of their privileges and purses or not? Or has the Home Minister fallen a prey to their arguments that the taking away of privy purses is like taking away of their cloths. That is what the Gaikwad of Baroda said. So I would like to know whether you have set a time-limit for these negotiations, or you would continue to negotiate as if the concord of Princes is a State within a State and fall a prey to the arguments of these Maharajahs who are adorning the Congress benches and who are even in the Cabinet.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has not asked me any question. He has put forward his views and expressed his doubts. I can only assure him, that there is no question of our falling a prey to anybody's arguments. The Government's view was explained to them when I met them. We certainly want to go about it after discussing the matter with the parties concerned. If they are not going to agree, Government is prepared to take its own decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: Sir, to you the abolition of privy purses seems to be a simple matter. That will not

do. I have some relevant question to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall not allow any more questions. (*Interruptions*) I am thankful to Mr. Rajnarain for his correcting me yesterday. I would not like to be corrected again. Next question.

FACILITIES GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE HOTEL CORPORATION

*33. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION: be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official car has been provided to the Chairman of the Hotel Corporation; and

(b) if so, what other facilities have been provided to him by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The reference is presumably to the India Tourism Development Corporation in which the Hotel Corporation has now been merged.

The Chairman serves part-time in an honorary capacity and is entitled to a fee for attending meetings, apart from travelling allowance in accordance with an order issued by Government, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. (See below) No other facility is provided to him by Government. As regards the use of conveyance, the Corporation has reported that while no car has been placed at his disposal for his exclusive use, the Corporation's staff car is made available to him as to other Directors and executives of the Corporation for official use. This is a matter entirely of internal management of the Corporation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
AVIATION

[DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT,
SHIPPING AND TOURISM
(TOURISM)]

New Delhi,

March 16th, 1966

No. 7(2) ITC/B&A/66

The India Tourism Hotel Corporation
Ltd., New Delhi.

SUB: Travelling allowance and sitting fee to Directors of India Tourism Hotel Corporation.

Sir,

As required under section 61(a) of the Articles of Association of India Tourism Hotel Corporation, I am directed to convey the sanction of the President for adoption of the following scales of remuneration to the Directors attending the meetings of the India Tourism Hotel Corporation:

(a) The remuneration of a non-official Director other than Member of Parliament be Rs. 50/- for each meeting/committee of the Board of Directors attended by him irrespective of the fact that a particular meeting/committee of Board of Directors is spread over more than one day by reasons of adjournment or otherwise.

(b) A non-official Director other than Member of Parliament attending the meeting/committee of the Board of Directors at a place other than the place of his residence would in addition to the fees prescribed in (a) above draw actual fare by rail (including air-conditioned class) or air fares to and from the normal place of residence or for journeys performed by road at the same rate of mileage allowance as is admissible to Govern-