

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

in the country, I would charge those who were at that time creating this impression that the Food Minister is creating a scare there, that there is absolutely no difficult situation, that everything is all right, provided we leave things to themselves. Therefore, if at all anybody has got to be charged for this complacency, it is those who tried to create an atmosphere of complacency at that time. Now they come and talk in terms of accusing this Government, of accusing me. But, let alone that, what is important now is, particularly from the month of March and especially from April, the effort has been further intensified and with the visit of the Prime Minister, I have no doubt in my mind that further intensification of efforts would take place. I think we can be assured, and we can have the confidence that everything will be done for the purpose of seeing that the situation not only is brought under control but the situation goes on improving from day to day, from week to week, from month to month. But as I have already stated, this is not the effect of merely one failure of monsoon alone. But unfortunately, the economic conditions are such that even one failure of monsoon immediately breaks down the economy there because the conditions are so backward there. Therefore, I am glad that the Prime Minister has got herself committed—and that is a commitment of the Government made by the Prime Minister—that there should be long-term measures to see that there is economic development in this area. And when we say 'economic development of this area', it is not merely an underdeveloped area, it is an area where we have a large percentage of Adivasis, the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes, the most backward citizens of our country. Particularly, when we talk of socialism, they are entitled to get priority consideration with regard to economic development. Therefore, it should be our effort and it should be the function of the Planning Commission to allocate priority to the economic development of these areas, not only in Orissa but in the other parts of the country also.

Madam, I have no doubt in my mind that, while this has brought some distress and created difficulties for us, this itself would be a starting point or a blessing for this year provided we implement what we have promised, that we give priority and bring about

economic development this year. This is a most important thing. Therefore, I am hoping while there is evil everywhere, out of evil sometimes good comes out. And while we are taking measures to meet the immediate situation, if out of this situation a long-term economic development is planned and implemented in this area, that would be the greatest blessing that can come out of this. I hope it would come out and it has to come out of it; otherwise while we might save the situation this year, we may be facing a worse situation later.

Therefore, Madam, I am glad that this situation has been discussed here and I am glad that hon'ble Members expressed great concern about this situation in which we have to be concerned about, and the only assurance I can give to the hon'ble Members is that while they have every right to criticise the Government—we welcome any constructive criticism and even sometimes unjustified criticism—what is important is that out of this criticism whatever lethargy has been there, if there had been any lethargy, hereafter at least we should see that the action is prompt, that the action is adequate and through this prompt and adequate action we meet the situation, contain the situation and improve the situation. Thank you, Madam.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION *RE* SPECIAL PROGRAMME ON NETAJI'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May I at the outset say that Mr. Vajpayee would get ten minutes. There are six names before me, but they can only put questions for elucidation, no speech.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): but the Order Paper contains only three names.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One can speak and the others can put questions.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: But . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope you have read the rules.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Then my name should not have been tagged on to the first name.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In half-an-hour we cannot have so many speeches. Mr. Vajpayee.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, 3 मई को डा० (श्रीमती) फूलरेन गुहा के प्रश्न के उत्तर में सूचना मंत्री की ओर से जो कुछ कहा गया उससे सदन में और सदन के बाहर एक अप्रिय विवाद खड़ा हो गया है। प्रश्न यह था कि क्या आल इंडिया रेडियो की तरफ से प्रति वर्ष नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस की जयन्ती 23 जनवरी को मनाने का विशेष आयोजन किया जाता है। इसके उत्तर में जो कुछ कहा गया उससे पता लगा कि आल इंडिया रेडियो नेताजी की जयन्ती प्रति वर्ष नहीं मनाता। आल इंडिया रेडियो के लिए नेताजी पांच वर्ष में एक बार पैदा होते हैं, प्रति वर्ष जयन्ती मनाने के बजाय, पांच साल में जयन्ती मनाई जाती है। यह भी कहा गया कि 1961 तक नेताजी की जयन्ती हर साल मनाई जाती थी, लेकिन बाद में किसी प्रोग्राम एडवाइजरी कमेटी की सिफारिश पर प्रति वर्ष जयन्ती मनाना बन्द कर दिया और पांच साल में एक बार जयन्ती मनाने का निश्चय किया गया। इस उत्तर से सदन में उत्तेजना फैली। यह उत्तेजना देश में भी फैल रही है, सभाएं हुई हैं, प्रस्ताव पास किए गए हैं, कलकत्ता कारपोरेशन ने भी, जो उत्तर दिया गया है उसके खिलाफ एक प्रस्ताव पास किया है और, महोदया, उत्तेजना फैलना स्वाभाविक है।

नेताजी का हमारे हृदयों में बड़ा महान स्थान है। मंत्री महोदय ने भी उत्तर देते समय कहा कि शासन के लिए, सत्तारूढ़ दल के लिए भी नेताजी एक महान व्यक्ति हैं। लेकिन आकाशवाणी ने जो निर्णय किया है उससे इस बात की पुष्टि नहीं होती। उत्तर में कहा गया कि केवल तीन व्यक्ति ऐसे हैं जिनकी जयन्ती प्रति वर्ष मनाई जाएगी और बाकी के महापुरुषों को दूसरी पंक्ति में बिठा दिया गया। वे महापुरुष हैं—महात्मा गांधी, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू और श्री लालबहादुर शास्त्री। इन तीनों की महत्ता में किसी को सन्देह नहीं हो सकता, लेकिन नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस, सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल, लोकमान्य बाल

गंगाधर तिलक, लाला लाजपत राय, सरदार भगत सिंह, डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद, हमारे भारतीय गणराज्य के प्रथम राष्ट्रपति, इस पहली पंक्ति में स्थान न पाएं इसका कोई औचित्य नहीं। आल इंडिया रेडियो को इस तरह नेताओं का वर्गीकरण नहीं करना चाहिए, मगर मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि आल इंडिया रेडियो को अफसोस है कि हमारे देश ने इतने महापुरुष क्यों पैदा किए। अगर महापुरुष कम होते तो मामला सरल हो जाता लेकिन इतने अधिक महापुरुष हमारी भारत-माता ने पैदा किए और आल इंडिया रेडियो मुश्किल में पड़ गया। इसलिए उसने उनकी जातियां बनाई, वर्ण बनाए, उनका वर्गीकरण किया। मैं समझता हूं कि प्रोग्राम एडवाइजरी कमेटी का यह निर्णय बड़ा दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण निर्णय था और उससे भी बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात यह थी कि उस निर्णय को सरकार ने माना, मंत्री महोदय ने कार्यान्वित किया। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस प्रोग्राम एडवाइजरी कमेटी के कौन सदस्य हैं। इसमें गैरसरकारी सदस्य हैं या सब सरकारी सदस्य ही हैं, किस तरह की सलाह उन्होंने दी? यह बड़े खेद की बात है...

श्री प्रकाश नारायण सन्नू (उत्तर प्रदेश) : किस बिना पर दी?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : महोदया, मैं चाहता हूं कि मैं जनता की भावनाएं सरकार तक पहुंचा दूं कि लोगों में यह धारणा है कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के साथ, उनकी स्मृति के साथ हमने न्याय नहीं किया है। अभी तक दिल्ली में उनकी कोई प्रस्तर प्रतिमा नहीं है। हम सेन्ट्रल हाल में भी उनका कोई चित्र नहीं लगा सके। हम भारत की राजधानी में लाल किले में उनके लिए कोई स्मारक खड़ा नहीं कर सके। क्या इसका कारण यह है कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस अपने जीवन के अन्तिम दिनों में कांग्रेस से अलग हो गए थे? क्या इसका कारण यह है कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस ने देश की स्वाधीनता के लिए अन्य तरीके अपचाए थे? क्या अहिंसात्मक ढंग से

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

जो लड़े थे वे ही स्वतंत्रता-युद्ध के योद्धा थे, सेनानी थे और जिन्होंने अन्य तरीके अपनाए क्या वे हमारे सम्मान के अधिकारी नहीं हैं ? मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इस बात का खंडन करें। हमें अपने महापुरुषों का सम्मान करना सीखना चाहिए। हमारा देश समृद्ध है, भारतमाता अहोभाग्या है कि उसने महापुरुषों की महान-मालिका को जन्म दिया है। उन सब के लिए समय निकालना आल इंडिया रेडियो के लिए कठिन नहीं होना चाहिए।

महोदया, नेताजी 23 जनवरी को पैदा हुए। क्या आल इंडिया रेडियो के लिए यह कठिन है कि 23 जनवरी को नेताजी की स्मृति में एक अच्छा कार्यक्रम रख सके, एक उच्च कोटि की वार्ता का आयोजन करे, उनके संस्मरण सुनाएं, उनकी बहादुरी की स्मृति जागृत करे। किस तरह नेताजी रहस्यात्मक ढंग से अदृश्य हो गए, किस तरह से विदेश में रहते हुए उन्होंने आजाद हिन्द फौज का गठन किया, किस तरह से नेताजी स्वाधीनता लाए—क्या यह बात नई पीढ़ी को पता नहीं होनी चाहिए ? क्या नेताजी की वीर गाथा कोमल मनों पर संस्कारों के रूप में अमिट नहीं होनी चाहिए ? आल इंडिया रेडियो का प्रति वर्ष समय निकालना कठिन नहीं हो सकता। लेकिन जिस ढंग से यह वर्गीकरण किया उससे हमारे हृदय को चोट लगी है। भले ही सूचना मंत्री महोदय उस वर्गीकरण में शामिल न हो लेकिन अब उन्हें अबसर मिला है कि वह प्रोग्राम एडवाइजरी कमेटी द्वारा दी गई सलाह को रद्दी की टोकरी में फेंक दें...

श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार) : जरूर।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

सदन और देश की भावनाओं का सम्मान करें और राष्ट्रीय नेताओं में किसी तरह का भेद न करें। हाँ, रेडियो के पास समय की कमी हो सकती है और समय की कमी को देखते हुए कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन हो सकता है। समय की कमी

समझी जा सकती है लेकिन भावना की कमी का परिचय नहीं देना चाहिये। नेताओं की तुलना करने के अप्रिय प्रसंग में हमें नहीं जाना चाहिये। सब नेता हमारे लिये आदरणीय हैं, पूज्य हैं, उन्होंने राष्ट्र की स्वाधीनता के लिये, राष्ट्र के निर्माण के लिये जो योगदान किया है उसके लिये हम उनका स्मरण करें यह आवश्यक है और आल इंडिया रेडियो को इस ऋण को उतारने में अपना योगदान देना चाहिये।

मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय सदन की भावनाओं का सम्मान करेंगे और नेताजी के प्रति तथा अन्य महापुरुषों के प्रति, जिनमें सरदार बल्लभ भाई पटेल, डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद तथा अन्य महापुरुष हैं उनके प्रति भी अपनी बदली हुई नीति की इस समय घोषणा करेंगे। धन्यवाद।

श्री प्रकाश नारायण सन्नू : कमेटी में कौन लोग थे जिन्होंने ऐसा वर्गीकरण कर दिया।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Madam, I would like to know whether the nomination to these Advisory Committees is done by the Director-General and Directors of different stations and therefore it is general a Committee that thrives on the favours of officers, on the recommendation of these people, may be many of whom as executive officers ordered for lathi-charge on these leaders. The category of top leaders of this country is being decided by them. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha had conceded this point in the Consultative Committee when I raised this matter that this Committee must be manned by people's representatives rather than by favour-seekers of the Director-General or of the Directors. But that has not been implemented as yet. Netaji was unique...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put a question.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I would like to know whether there was, in spite of that, a circular issued to all the stations not to play up the virtues of Netaji. They celebrate this occasion once every five years. They draw inspiration from him, they take advantage of Netaji's popularity and his great name because they do it in the election year, once every five years. When they take advantage of his name in celebrating this occasion once every five years, I hope they would not depend upon the recommendation of the favour-seekers of these

Directors and the Director-General but would make it a regular function every year

As for categorisation, I would suggest the same thing as suggested by Mr Vajpayee. There should not be any distinction made among the top leaders of this country or else it would mean disrespect to certain people and the natural tendency of the officers would be to have respect only for those whose relations still continue in the Government

श्री गोडे मुराहरि (उत्तर प्रदेश) मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि नेताओं के जन्म दिन के बारे में और उनके जो सालाना स्मरण के दिन होते हैं उनके बारे में जो नीति अभी बनी है उसमें नेताजी को महात्मा गांधी और जवाहर लाल और ऐसे जिन नेताओं को प्रथम श्रेणी में गिना गया है उसमें क्यों नहीं रखा गया। और मैं इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि जो हमारी आजादी मिली है उसके अगर कोई भी नेता जिम्मेदार इतिहास में समझे जायेंगे तो महात्मा गांधी और नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस का नाम पहले आयेगा, इसलिये मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्यों इस तरह की बदलाव की नीति की गई है। और अगर यह सही है कि इस तरह का एक सरकुलर भी भेजा गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह एक बहुत बड़ी शर्मनाक बात है और जो भी इसके जिम्मेवार होंगे उनको सरकार को निकाल देना चाहिये, जो भी डाइरेक्टर उसके लिये जिम्मेवार होगा मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि उसके ऊपर कोई कड़ा कदम उठाने वाली है या नहीं और अगर मिनिस्टर इसके जिम्मेवार हैं तो मिनिस्टर खुद इस्तीफा दे दें।

DR SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA (West Bengal) : Madam, for clarification I would like to ask a few questions. May I know whether it is a fact that at the time of independence the A I R had the rule not to mention the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the I. N. A. and the rule continued even after independence for a few years? Then there was some trouble between some talkers and Calcutta Radio Station people over this matter in 1948 or it may be 1950, I do not remember exactly. After a year or two the rule was changed.

M55RS/66—8

May I know whether that is true? I would like to know from which year the A. I. R. started mentioning the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and from which year the A. I. R. started observing the birthday of Netaji and I would also like to know whether his birthday was started being observed from all radio stations and, if not, which are those stations? I would like to know the names of the stations. May I know in which year the A.I.R. decided to observe the 23rd January, the birthday of Netaji, to be observed once every five years? May I also know whether the A I R Calcutta was allowed to observe Netaji's birthday every year? My last question is whether the birthday of Netaji will be observed by the A I R through all radio stations on the 23rd January each year and whether there will be a day-long programme or whether there will be a limited-time programme.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal)

I want to put only two questions. Netaji is an indivisible and integral part of India's national freedom movement. Netaji organised the Indian National Army which fought for the freedom of this country. History has it that his sense of patriotism and self-sacrifice is unequalled. History has it that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, paid glowing tributes to him. History has it that 450 millions of our countrymen held the name Netaji very close to their hearts. Then why is it that the A I R Programme Advisory Committee did not find it necessary to have a special programme each year on the 23rd January, the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose? Is it due to the arrogance of the bureaucrats who are manning the A I R or is it due to the ignorance of the men who man the A I R.? That is one question.

My second question is this. Madam, you might be aware that a picture of Netaji is being exhibited in Calcutta in respect of which a section of the people, and particularly members of the family of Netaji, have raised certain objections regarding certain features of this picture. May I know whether the Government of India, particularly the Information and Broadcasting Minister, would check up that picture and make necessary amendments so that that dissatisfaction may be removed?

شری عبدالغنی (پنجاب) : میڈم -
 کیا سرکار بٹائے گی کہ کیا یہ سچ
 ہے کہ ایک وقت پر نیتا جی اور
 سورگباشی پٹا بھی سیتا رمیا کا معاہدہ
 ہوا - پٹابھی جی کی طرف سوائے
 مہاسما گاندھی کے باقی سب نیتا تھے
 اور اس وقت نیتا جی سبھاش چندر
 بوس کی وجہ ہوئی - اگر یہ سچ ہے
 تو انہی زبردست نیتا کو انہی زبردست
 دیش کے ایک پاپولر جنرل کو کیسے
 مان سکتے ہیں کہ وہ اس قابل نہیں
 کہ انکی جنتی مسائی جائے بے
 شک سورگباشی لال بہادر جی کی
 برسی منائیں بڑی خوشی کی بات ہے
 لیکن نیتا جی اور شری لال بہادر
 ساستری کا کون مقابلہ ہو سکتا ہے ؟
 وہ تو وہ بھی جن کے مقابلہ میں سب
 آئے اور ہار گئے - تو مس جاننا چاہتا
 ہوں صرف کہ انہوں نے شکست دی
 اس لئے ان کی جیتی نہیں منانی چاہئے
 تھی -

دوسرے میڈم - میں یہ جانا چاہتا
 ہوں جہاں تک حکومت کا تعلق ہے
 یہ بات تسلیم کی جائیگی کہ ولہ
 بھائی پٹیل جی نے پانچ سو راجاؤں
 کو اس طرح سے جوڑ دیا دیش کے
 قدموں میں ڈال دیا کہ ہسٹری کبھی
 ان کا نام بھلا نہیں سکتی - تو ولہ
 بھائی جی کے سامنے اگر گستاخی
 معاف ہو بڑے سے بڑے نیتا کو شامل
 کر کے کہتا ہوں - اپنے دونوں

پردھان مسریوں کی بات چلتی نہیں
 تھی یعنی اتنی ان میں طاقت تھی تو
 صرف اسی سا پر کہ وہ زیادہ طاقت ور
 تھے اس لئے ان کی برسی نہیں مسائی
 جائیگی ؟ اگر مجھے معاف کرے
 سرکار تو میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں
 کہ امام الہند مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد
 جنہوں نے اپنی زندگی میں نہ صرف
 ہندوستان بلکہ تمام ایشیا میں
 ایک بہت بڑا درجہ حاصل کیا انہیں
 اس لئے اگور کا جانا ہے کہ آج
 ملک تقسیم ہو گیا - مس پوچھا
 چاہتا ہوں سرکار سے کہ رفیع احمد
 قدوائی کو جو سردار پٹیل کے بعد
 ہندوستان کے بچہ بچہ کے دل میں
 گھر کر گئے جن کے لئے پار کم زور
 سے کم زور اسان اور طاق ور سے
 سے طاقت ور اسان کا ملا اور جو ان
 کی عملی زندگی ان کی کام یابی سے
 متاثر ہوئے کیوں بھلا دیا جائے آج
 مجھے معاف فرمائینگے اس منسٹری
 میں نیتا جی سبھاش بوس کی
 مثال ہو کیا راجیدر ناہو کی مثال تو
 کیا - کیا کوئی رفیع احمد قدوائی
 کی مثال بھی موجود ہے ؟ اس کا
 نام صرف اس لئے نہیں لیا جانا کہ اس
 کے پیچھے کوئی بڑے جاہنے والے
 نہیں ہیں اور آج ان کی طاقت نہیں
 ہے - مس جانا چاہا ہوں نہ فرقہ
 کیوں کہا گیا اور کرے والے ہیں
 کون ؟ کیا ان کا کوئی بیک

گراؤنڈ ہے کہ وہ مہاتما گاندھی اور ان کے ساتھیوں کو اسی طرح پہچان سکتے ہیں جیسے پنڈت جواہر لال نہرو پہچان سکتے تھے یا ولہ بھائی پٹیل پہچان سکتے تھے - تو میں جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا ایسی کمیٹی بنائی گئی ہے جو ملک میں ایسا تفرقہ پیدا کرے کہ جس سے ایسا خیال پیدا ہو کہ بھگت سنگھ کی کوئی قیمت نہیں، نیتا جی کی کوئی قیمت نہیں ہے - رفیع احمد قدوائی کی کوئی قیمت نہیں، مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد کی کوئی قیمت نہیں ہے کہ جس کی وجہ سے موجودہ منسٹری نے ان کو انکوری کیا - میڈم- میں یہ سوال ان سے کرنا چاہتا ہوں -

†**श्री अब्दुल रानी (पंजाब) :** मैडम क्या सरकार बताएगी कि क्या यह सच है कि एक वक्त पर नेताजी और स्वर्गबाशी पट्टाभि सीता रमैया का मुकाबला हुआ। पट्टाभि जी की तरफ सिवाए महात्मा गांधी के बाकी सब नेता थे और उस वक्त नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस की विजय हुई? अगर यह सच है तो इतने जबरदस्त नेता को इतने जबरदस्त देश के एक पौपूलर जनरल को कैसे मान सकते हैं कि वह इस काबिल नहीं कि उनकी जयन्ती मनाई जाये। बेशक स्वर्गबाशी लाल बहादुर जी की बर्सी मनायें, बड़ी खुशी की बात है लेकिन नेता जी और श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री का कौन मुकाबला हो सकता है? वह तो वह थे जिनके मुकाबले में सब आए और हार गये। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं सिर्फ कि उन्होंने शिकस्त दी इसलिए उनकी जयन्ती नहीं मनानी चाहिए थी?

दूसरे मैडम, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं जहां तक हकूमत का ताल्लुक है यह बात तसलीम की जाएगी कि वल्लभ भाई पटेल जी ने पांच सौ राजाओं को इस तरह से जोड़ दिया, देश के कदमों में डाल दिया कि हिस्ट्री कभी उनका नाम भुला नहीं सकती। तो वल्लभ भाई जी के सामने अगर गुस्ताखी माफ़ हो बड़े से बड़े नेता को शामिल करके कहता हूं—अपने दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों की बात चलती नहीं थी यानी इतनी उनमें ताकत थी। तो सिर्फ इसी बिना पर कि वह ज्यादा ताकतवर थे इसलिए उनकी बरसी नहीं मनाई जाएगी? और अगर मुझे माफ़ करे सरकार तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इमामउलहिन्द मौलाना अब्बुलकलाम आज़ाद जिन्होंने अपनी जिन्दगी में न सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तान बल्कि तमाम एशिया में एक बहुत बड़ा दर्जा हासिल किया उन्हें इसलिए इग्नोर किया जाता है कि आज मुल्क तकसीम हो गया? मैं पूछना चाहता हूं सरकार से कि रफ़ी अहमद क़िदवाई को जो सरदार पटेल के बाद हिन्दुस्तान के बच्चे बच्चे के दिल में घर कर गये, जिनके लिए प्यार कमज़ोर से कमज़ोर इन्सान और ताकतवर से ताकतवर इंसान का मिला और जो उनकी अमली जिन्दगी, उनकी कामयाबी से मुतासर हुए, क्यों भुला दिया जाये? आज मुझे माफ़ फरमाएं इस मिनिस्ट्री में नेता जी सुभाष बोस की मिसाल तो क्या राजेन्द्र बाबू की मिसाल तो क्या, क्या कोई रफ़ी अहमद क़िदवाई की मिसाल भी मौजूद है? उसका नाम सिर्फ इस लिए नहीं लिया जाता कि उसके पीछे कोई बड़े चाहने वाले नहीं हैं और आज उनकी ताकत नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह तफरका क्यों किया गया और करने वाले हैं कौन? क्या उनका कोई बैंक ग्राउंड है कि वह महात्मा गांधी और उनके साथियों को इसी तरह पहचान सकते हैं जैसे पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू पहचान सकते थे या वल्लभ भाई पटेल पहचान सकते थे। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या ऐसी कमेटी बनाई गई है जो मुल्क में ऐसा तफरका पैदा करे कि जिससे ऐसा ख्याल पैदा हो कि भगत सिंह की कोई कीमत नहीं,

[श्री अब्दुल गनी]

नेता जी की कोई कीमत नहीं है, रफ़ी अहमद किदवाई की कोई कीमत नहीं, मौलाना अब्दुल कलाम आज़ाद की कोई कीमत नहीं है कि जिसकी वजह से मौजूदा मिनिस्ट्री ने उनको इग्नोर किया ? मैडम, मैं यह सवाल उनसे करना चाहता हूँ।]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Anup Singh. Please be brief.

DR. ANUP SINGH (Punjab): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he recognises after the discussion here and in the Press and in the public at large that this decision was ill-advised and most unfortunate and it should be repudiated? May I also ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that while Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was fighting for India's freedom, the British propagandists in America, particularly the British embassies and British councils tried to spread the ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not make a statement. Ask your question.

DR. ANUP SINGH: I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that those propagandists were trying to paint Netaji as a Fascist or Nazi because according to them he went to seek the aid of the Nazis and the Fascists? And the few Indian propagandists who may be called that way, they said that if Benjamin Franklin could go to France to get aid from the worst monarchy of that time without being dubbed a monarchist, Subhas Bose could not be called a Fascist or a Nazi because he believed in getting India's freedom through violence. I feel that this decision is most unfortunate and you are creating a new caste, a new category and you are imposing upon the people the task of making a decision here as to who is the bigger leader and who is the smaller leader and so on. We have enough distinctions already here. And this last one will not be tolerated by the people.

श्री शीलभद्र याजी (बिहार) : मैडम...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is not with me.

SHRI SHEEL BHADRA YAJEE: I have told you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right.

श्री शीलभद्र याजी : मैडम डिपुटी चेयरमैन, क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय और आल इंडिया रेडियो प्रोग्राम सब कमेटी के सदस्यों को यह मालूम है कि संसार के इतिहास में नेताजी के जैसा और कोई बेजोड़ व्यक्ति है जिन्होंने मुल्क से बाहर जाकर 26 लाख हिन्दुस्तानियों के बीच में लाखों की फौज बनाकर ब्रिटिश और अमेरिकन साम्राज्यवाद पर चढ़ाई की ? क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताएंगे कि इन सब बातों को जानने के बाद भी क्यों उनकी इस तरह की बेइज्जती की गई और माननीय डिपुटी मिनिस्टर महोदय ने जो उनको दायमं दरजे का घोषित किया, क्या इसके लिये उन्होंने हाउस के सामने माफी मांगी ?

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: May I say just one word?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the time is running out and if everybody gets up it will be difficult.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Please allow him, Madam, to say what he wants to say.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: I will be very brief. I had the honour to represent the Indian National Army in Malaya and I know from personal experience the affection, the respect and the admiration in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who happened to be my contemporary in England was held in Greater India. He lives in the affection of Greater India and he was one of the tallest men that this country has produced and it is monstrous that his name should be omitted from the list of those in category one.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Madam, at the very outset I would like to assure this House and all the hon. Members who have expressed strong feeling on this question that we on this side, as I said the other day also when this question was put, are second to none in our deepest respect and admiration and appreciation for the great historic role that

Netaji played in our freedom struggle May assure hon Members also that both myself and my colleague here felt extremely miserable at the misunderstanding that arose over this question. I would at once say—because that was the question put in a pointed manner by Shri Yaji here—whether my colleague has expressed regret in a categorical manner for making this ranking—that this is the position. I may, if the House would not mind the trouble, give briefly the gist of the answers given on that day because that will, I think, help to give the broad perspective, the correct perspective to the whole matter. The first question was from Dr Shrimati Phulrenu Guha who asked

“May I know from which year this programme is being arranged from all Radio stations of India?”
and the reply was

“Prior to 1961 these programmes were noticed in all stations of All India Radio but after that it has been decided to have it every five years. So the next birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will be on 23rd January 1967.”
The next question was

“In view of the fact that we have adopted an Indian National Calendar and the Gregorian Calendar plays only a secondary part in this country may I know if there is any proposal before the Government of India to observe these anniversaries according to the Indian National Calendar instead of observing them on the basis of the Gregorian Calendar?”

To that the reply given was

“There is no such proposal.”

The next question was put by Shri Bhuwalka

“क्या मंत्री जी बतायेगे कि नेता जी ने इतना बड़ा काम किया देश के लिये तो उसके लिए क्या ब्राडकास्टिंग की ही बात करेंगे और कोई नई बात नहीं करेंगे जिससे देश में उनका कुछ काम हो आगे ?”

And her reply was

“The main question is about broadcasting and so I just answered about it.”

Then Mr M M Dharia asked

“It was stated by the hon Deputy Minister that it was only once in five years that this anniversary programme was broadcast by All India Radio. Having regard to the work and the leadership that was given by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose may I know why it should not be broadcast every year and why there should be a time lag of five years in between?”

And the reply to this question was what was resented. And what did she say? She said

“In view of the fact that a large number of such occasions are there to observe the birthdays of different leaders it has been decided that way.”

Now she never attempted to categorise, in fact what she was doing was simply to give the House the information as we had about the background and may I now give a little more of that background because the House was very anxious about what the background was and what the composition of the Committee was. Now so far as AIR is concerned, we celebrate three types of programmes. One is about religious or seasonal festivals which are there every year, the other is about the anniversaries of eminent public men and then the anniversaries of outstanding personalities in the field of art and literature. The AIR also has to see that the programmes are interesting and attractive as far as possible. So far as the anniversaries of outstanding personalities in the field of literature and art are concerned it is very easy and the AIR makes the best use of them to celebrate occasions connected with Kalidas, Tansen, Thiagaraja, Vishnu Digamber, Tulsi Das, Ghalib and so on. Then the question came what about celebrating the anniversaries of the national leaders all over the country? The question was whether they should be celebrated on an all-India basis on the all India radio hook-up or whether they should be on a regional basis. So a Sub-Committee was appointed to go into this question, a Sub-Committee of the Programme Advisory Committee and that Sub-Committee consisted of Mama Warerkar, Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and the D G and other officials were there. And this was their recommendation. I will also give the composition

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

of the Programme Advisory Committee because that will put the whole thing in proper perspective. I will read out the names of the Committee and hon Members will kindly bear with me. They are Dr M. S. Mehta, Vice-Chancellor, Rajasthan University, Shri S. C. Israni of the Waco Radio Electronics Industries, Bombay, Rajmata Maharani Vijayaraje Scindia of Gwalior, Shri Achanta Janakiam, Balaji Colony, Tirupati, Shrimati Pushpalata Das, ex-M.P., Shri D. N. Chaudhuri of Debsons Private Limited, Calcutta, Shri R. K. Narayan who is an eminent author, Shri Nihar Ranjan Ray, Calcutta, Dr S. Balasundaram, Ph.D., Rishi Valley, Chittoor District, Dr. Alkazi, Director, National School of Drama and Asian Theatre Institute, New Delhi, Dr J. N. Khosla, Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, Shri Bhagwat Dayal, Kanpur, Shrimati R. Thapar, New Delhi, Shri M. Sashachalapathy, Retired Judge, Andhra High Court and Vigilance Commissioner.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it a long list?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: It is a long list of 45 names. We know all that.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No no. It is a list of 26 names and I have read out nearly 15.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: What we are concerned with is whether these nominations are not done under the recommendations of the Director-General. The entire thing is his show.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is wholly bureaucratic.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Then there is Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale, Shri T. V. Viswanatha Aiyar, Shri K. T. Chandy, Shri Chanchal Sarkar, Shri Satyendra Vamanrao Trivedi, Dr. V. N. Pabalkar, Shrimati Koduri Leelavathy Devi, Shri Brij Sundar Sharma, Shri E. S. Krishnamoorthy, Shri Pankaj Kumar Mullick, Shri Musuri Subamanya Iyer and Master Krishna Rao.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): In this Committee there is not a single person who has actually participated in the national movement and who can understand the importance of patriotic leaders.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: That is what I say; it is a show of the Director-General.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not shielding anybody, nor shielding the Director-General because it is appointed by the Government and the Committee that decided was appointed as far back as 1961.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Madam, he is again misleading the House. On whose recommendation is it done?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not misleading the House at all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Was the Committee constituted under the recommendation of the Minister and were the names given by the Director-General of the AIR?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Madam, these names are discussed and certain proposals are made. And these were made by the ex-Director-General and not the present Director-General. (Interruptions) I am only giving the background. The Government takes the final decision.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: We know the background. What new thing are you giving?

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If he knew the whole thing then Mr. Lokanath Misra should not have put the question specifically about the composition of the Committee. When he asked me the specific question is it not my duty to reply to that?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): But, Madam, he must confess that this Committee is not competent to evaluate the role of our national leaders.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is only narrating the past.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am narrating the past because...

SHRI G. MURAHARI: The past is black indeed, please correct the future.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: ... as we saw the feelings of the House.

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please let the Minister continue. Let him finish his arguments.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As we knew the feelings of the House we also said that it was difficult to make any comparisons between various leaders in this matter. I said comparisons would be odious. Taking note of the feelings of the House we took the earliest opportunity of inviting the leaders of the various groups in Parliament both in Rajya Sabha and in the Lok Sabha and informally discussed the whole matter with them in a very cordial atmosphere. The mover of the motion, Mr. Vajpayee, was also there; other members were also there and we came to the unanimous conclusion that we should not compare and contrast but outstanding national figures like Gandhiji, Jawaharlalji, Netaji, Shastriji, Maulana Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Lokmanya Tilak and Sardar Patel...

SHRI ABDUL GHANI: And your and my guru, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR:... these were such whose anniversaries must be celebrated on an all-India basis every year. These eight names have been approved for that purpose and I have already made an announcement to that effect this morning in the Lok Sabha. I was thinking that now that the motion was coming up I might take the opportunity of giving the background and nothing more.

I would like to say that so far as we are concerned, we do not at all want to whittle down the contribution of the leaders. We had the pride and privilege of joining the great struggle with their names on our lips all the time and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was a big source of inspiration for all of us. We do not whittle down any personality.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What has happened to that Committee? Is that Committee functioning now?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Madam, you will kindly appreciate. It is not a Committee; it is a Sub-Committee which went into the whole question and came to the conclusion that...

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The Committee must be dismissed immediately.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I would also say that most of these leaders' anniversaries are not only being celebrated over the regional radio stations but many of them are being celebrated in all the stations of the AIR by reporting and covering those functions that are held in the various places in their honour. May I in this connection also say that even last year the birthday celebration of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was organised not only from Delhi but it was also celebrated in Calcutta, Imphal and Assam radio stations. So this was being done. We have to see the whole thing in the proper perspective of time. No doubt the leaders have made great contributions and we have every respect for them. We have been near to them but we must view the whole thing from the point of view of posterity, in the perspective of eternity and we have also to realise that some of these leaders have made an impact on, and contribution to, world politics and world thought. They will remain for eternity as world leaders. And Gandhiji comes in that particular category; nobody can doubt it. So it is not as if we are trying to play down Netaji because he fought an election against Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Pattabhi Sitaramayya was defeated or because he organised a movement of armed resistance against the foreign power. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We never had that idea. The fact of the matter is...

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The Ministry had a circular. Let me know. Then, I will come forward with the circular.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The circular may have been issued as a result of what was decided by the Department of the Government, whatever it was. I have not seen the circular myself, but the circular might have said that the birthdays of leaders may be celebrated on a regional basis, not on an all-India basis. I have already said that we have already come to a very happy and unanimous conclusion about eight names and that should be taken into account. I would say that so far as we are concerned, we certainly stick to this.

Now, there are many other difficulties, for example, Gandhiji's birthday and death day.

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

His death day is important because of his great martyrdom. Panditji's birthday is celebrated as children's day and his death day is observed as a day of peace. Shastriji's death day may have to be observed because it is associated with his supreme sacrifice in the cause of peace. His birthday happens to coincide with that of Gandhiji, namely, the 2nd of October. So, these three names have got a peculiar and unique coincidence. Then, I would say that we have got to view the whole thing in the proper perspective. As I said, now that we have made the happy decision . . .

SHRI G. MURAHARI: It is a wrong perspective, by again repeating the same. You are again saying that Gandhiji has a special position, Jawaharlal Nehru has a special position, Lal Bahadur has a special position. You are again making the same mistake as had been made the other day.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We would also like to observe the death day of Netaji, but my friend, Mr. Shah Nawas, is here. We do not know what his day of death is. I am sorry to say that my friend, Mr. Murahari, is going all out to misinterpret me. (*Interruptions*) Every year we would celebrate his birthday. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister has made it very clear and you have got a set of names. It is better that we close on that happy note.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: One point remains. Has this Committee, which has made this recommendation, definitely gone?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: During these years from 1960, 1961 and 1962 to-date, three Ministers have changed. The Directors-General have changed.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: You should dissolve that Committee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The entire House is of opinion that this Committee should be dissolved immediately.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No, no.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: This Committee is good enough for drama and music, but not for the evaluation of national leaders.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a suggestion for the Minister.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I want to know the answer to my question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No more. Message from Lok Sabha.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BILL, 1966.

SECRETARY: Madam, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Asian Development Bank Bill, 1966, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th May, 1966."

Madam, I lay the Bill on the Table.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at twenty-five minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 17th May, 1966.