

अपने प्रस्ताव के बारे में राज्य स्तर पर पंचायती राज संस्थाओं द्वारा संचालित लाभकारी कारोबार के क्षेत्र का अध्ययन करने के लिये संस्थानों की स्थापना करने, मार्गदर्शी प्रायोजनाएँ शुरू करने और पंचायती राज के विभिन्न पहलुओं से संबंधित मूल्यांकन और अध्ययन करने का सुझाव दिया है। चूंकि पंचायती राज वित्त निगम अभी स्थापित नहीं किये गये हैं, अतः अध्ययन टोली द्वारा सुझाये गये संस्थान स्थापित करने की स्थिति नहीं आई है। तथापि इस दौरान में सामुदायिक विकास का राष्ट्रीय संस्थान, समय समय पर, सीधे तथा विश्वविद्यालयों व अन्य संस्थानों के माध्यम से अन्य बातों के साथ साथ पंचायती राज की समस्याओं से संबंधित अध्ययन करता रहा है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): The Study Team on Panchayati Raj Finances have suggested, in connection with their proposal for the setting up of Panchayati Raj Finance Corporations, the creation, at the state level, of institutes to study the scope for remunerative undertakings by Panchayati Raj institutions, take up pilot projects and undertake evaluation and studies relating to various aspects of Panchayati Raj. As Panchayati Raj Finance Corporations have not yet been set up, the stage has not been reached for establishing the institutes suggested by the Study Team. Meanwhile, however, the National Institute of Community Development has been carrying out, from time to time, directly as well as through universities and other institutions, studies relating, *inter alia*, to problems of Panchayati Raj.]

†[] English translation.

†SCOOTER AND TAXI DRIVERS IN DELHI

429. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that scooter and taxi drivers frequently refuse to carry passengers on short journeys in Delhi; and

(b) if so, whether Government have issued instructions to the police to take action against such drivers?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) Complaints have been received that some scooter and taxi drivers decline to take short distance passengers. As this involves a violation of Rule 4.38 of the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, the traffic police have been launching prosecutions against offending drivers.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED PRESS STATEMENT BY A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SUGGESTING POSTPONEMENT OF KERALA ELECTIONS ON THE PLEA OF ABOLISHING MID-TERM ELECTIONS

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): May I, Sir, with your permission, call the attention of the Minister of Law to the reported press statement by a Government spokesman suggesting postponement of Kerala elections on the plea of abolishing mid-term elections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): Sir, there appeared in some newspapers a report that Government was considering the proposal to eliminate mid-term elections to State

†Transferred from the 4th December, 1964.

Legislative Assemblies. But there is no proposal before the Government, nor is it the intention of the Government, to postpone or avoid mid-term elections. Hence there is no question of postponing the forthcoming elections in Kerala.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has the Governor of Kerala submitted any proposals on the subject to the Government and, if so, what are those proposals?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: No, Sir, No proposal has been submitted.

SHRI A. D. MANI: After the categorical . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Mani

SHRI A. D. MANI: There is one important matter. A Cabinet Minister . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything that have raise is important but the reply given is absolutely categorical on the point in which you are interested.

SHRI A. D. MANI: You may rule it out, Sir. But I would like to put the question for consideration. I would like to know what is the procedure adopted by the Government in regard to pronouncements on these subjects? Are Cabinet Ministers allowed to indulge in free thinking and express their views or are they to seek the previous authorisation of the Government before making a controversial statement of the kind made by Mr. S. K. Patil in Kerala?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I am not aware of any such statement made by any of the Cabinet Ministers. If the hon. Member has any Cabinet Minister in view, the question may be put to him.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of order. May I seek your indulgence? Cabinet Ministers making pronouncements on Government policies without a deci-

sion being taken by Government is it the proper functioning of parliamentary democracy? Does the Government function on the basis of joint responsibility? Or has Mr. S. K. Patil's making an announcement regarding the future elections in Kerala no bearing on Government's policy? The House would like to know whether the Government has taken notice of the statement made by Mr. S. K. Patil and whether he has been called upon to explain why he made such a statement.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I have already stated that there is no proposal before the Government to postpone the mid-term elections in Kerala.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Can he deny that Mr. Patil did make such a statement?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. You said that no statement had been made. Mr. Vajpayee says that in the statement . . .

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: There is no proposal before the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course, that is very categorical. But there is another point whether Ministers of Government are free to express themselves on important matters of policy without the concurrence of the Cabinet. Has any statement in this behalf been made?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: No decision has been taken by the Government. If any Cabinet Minister makes any statement, it cannot be a Cabinet statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is good that you have called attention to that.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): Is it not a fact that Mr. Patil did not make an announcement in these terms that the mid-term elections shall not be held? He merely expressed his personal opinion and he made it clear. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want the matter to be further discussed.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: I am not discussing it, I am putting a question whether the reports do not make it clear that Mr. Patil made it clear that he was expressing his personal opinion in general about the mid-term elections and not about the Kerala elections?

SHRI A. D. MANI: How can you speak for Mr. Patil?

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTES EXCHANGED BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKHMI N. MENON): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, dated the 8th December, 1964.
- (ii) Note given by the Embassy of China in India, to the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, dated the 14th November, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3611/64 for (i) and (ii).]

ORISSA RICE PROCUREMENT (LEVY) ORDER, 1964

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Food) Notification G.S.R. No. 1738, dated the 1st December, 1964, publishing the Orissa Rice Procurement (Levy) Order, 1964. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3619/64.]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

PASSING AWAY OF SHRI MAITHILISHARAN GUPTA

MR. CHAIRMAN: The news of the passing away of Shri Maithilisharan Gupta must have come as a personal shock not only to us who had the unique experience of the joy of his companionship in this House until April last year, but also to the countless millions outside who have known him through his inimitable poetry.

Shri Maithilisharan Gupta adorned the benches of this House for twelve years, having been nominated by the President as an eminent and distinguished representative of literature. He attended the meetings of this House regularly throughout this period, and occasionally contributed to its proceedings—occasions which not only enlivened the proceedings but also gave a new meaning and a new approach to them by his poetic wisdom. Serene, calm and lively, he shed light and inspiration wherever he went and in whatever company he moved. He was a Doctor of Literature, a “Sahitya-Vachaspati”, and was the recipient of the President's award of Padma Vibhushan. Honours and distinction sought him in the normal course. The high esteem in which he was held did not affect his self-composure. His great humility was unequalled, as we heard him in this House on March 13, 1964, in the last session he attended:

भूलें हम से हुई न होंगी कैसी कैसी ?
पर क्या वैसी, क्षमा आप लोगों की जैसी ?
मांग मांग कर लोग बहुत कुछ पा लेते हैं,
किन्तु बड़े तो क्षमा बिना मांगे देते हैं,
तात, आज भी एक बात के हम अधिकारी.
बने आपकी दया उलट कर याद हमारी।

Posterity is the proud heir to his undying poetry, and a grateful nation will remember him with affection and love.