

SHRI G. M. MIR: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that to have a common script a Committee had been set up in 1960 and now it is 1964. May I know the reasons for such a long delay?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Sir, it was very difficult to collect these linguists all together and to bring them round the table and naturally it takes time. I admit it has taken quite a lot of time, but we have now requested the Committee to finalise its report and submit it to us.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know whether any of the South Indian languages has been made compulsory in any colleges in the North?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Sir, the point is that the three-language formula has been or is to be uniformly applied in all the States, including the States in the North, and we have been requesting the States, especially the Hindi-Speaking States, to fall in line. We have prepared a scheme which may be accepted in the Fourth Plan and according to that one of the non-Hindi languages will be made compulsory in all the Hindi-speaking areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Incidentally this question refers only to a common script and not to other things. Next question.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ORISSA MINISTERS AND EX-MINISTERS

*122. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some M.L.A.s have written to Government making certain allegations against Ministers and ex-Ministers of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the allegations; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a judicial commission to enquire into these charges?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Sixty-three persons including twenty-two M.L.A.s of Orissa have submitted a memorial to the President making certain allegations against Ministers and ex-Ministers of Orissa.

(b) It would not be in public interest to disclose the allegations.

(c) The memorial is still under examination of Government.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, do these allegations refer to the entries found in the account books of Messrs. Serajuddin & Co.?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Sir, these allegations cover a fairly wide ground and probably they may have touched that ground also.

SHRI A. D. MANI: In view of the fact that some Ministers are involved, does the Government propose to advise the President that no person who is the subject of an allegation should be made the Chief Minister of Orissa?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: This is in the stage of allegation so far as the Government is concerned. From the President, to whom this memorial was submitted, we have received the document and we are proceeding to deal with it.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is the Government aware that Mr. Biju Patnaik made a statement the other day, some weeks ago, that he had made a fortune of Rs. 10 crores within a short time and does the Government consider that such a fortune could have been made by lawful and honest means?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: This does not arise out of this.

SHRI A. D. MANI: It is one of the subjects of the allegation. It is referred to in the memorial.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Mr. Vajpayee.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it a fact that the delay in appointing a Commission of Enquiry to go into the allegations against the Orissa Ministers is due to the fact that the Cabinet is divided on the recommendations made by the Santhanam Committee in regard to the enquiry into charges made against persons enjoying high offices?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: The hon. Member has joined together various matters which really have nothing to do with each other. The question of the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee is being considered and whatever decision is taken regarding that does not effect our responsibility for taking action on this memorial, and there is no delay. We have received it only recently and we are proceeding to deal with it.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: In view of the fact that very recently allegations made by an Opposition Member against the Chief Minister have proved to be true before a Commission of Enquiry, is it not all the more the reason that a commission of Enquiry be appointed very quickly and that till the findings of the Commission are known, no person who is under investigation, should be entrusted with any Ministerial post in that State when the Ministry is being re-constituted?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: As I submitted, I will indicate the action that is being taken which should satisfy the hon. Members. We have sent a copy of the documents to the Government and the persons concerned. In addition, the Central Bureau of Investigation has undertaken a preliminary enquiry. Therefore we are going into the matter without any delay. At what stage anything further has to be done will depend on the results of that.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether an officer of the Central Bureau has gone to Orissa to investigate into the affair and Shri Biren

Mitra, the ex-Chief Minister, has protested against it saying that since Ministers are involved, an officer should not enquire into it? In view of this fact, without waiting for an enquiry report, since the Serajuddin affair has long been before the Government and the country, why should not an inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act be instituted forthwith and why should the Government take time to clear this matter?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I think it was clear from the reply that I have given that there is a preliminary enquiry in progress now and there can be no impediment which will be allowed. I do not think there is any such thing at all so far as this enquiry is concerned.

SHRI LOKANATH MISHRA: As the opinion of the Law Ministry has been made available to the Home Ministry that a libel suit will be no bar for the setting up of a Commission, what else is the delay due to?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Whatever has happened in any Ministry of the Government and whether he has any special access to those documents I do not know, but we act on the advice that we receive. The stage for deciding on the special agency taking further steps in regard to it has not yet arrived.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Ministry of Home Affairs has any say in the selection of Ministers in the States?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: That height of power I have not achieved . . .

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the team appointed by the Auditor General of India to enquire into the affairs of the Kalinga Industries and Orissa Agents *vis-a-vis* the Orissa Government have come to the conclusion that the Orissa Agents have made a profit of Rs. 57 lakhs by misusing their power?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: These are facts that will come out in the enquiry.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has just said that no delay is made in this case. May I know when the memorial was received by the Home Ministry and when it started taking action in this matter?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Recently, in the course of the last two or three weeks, and I have dealt with it quickly.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: May I know if the Minister is not going to disclose the allegations against the Ministers in the interest of the public, against how many Ministers the allegations are there and how many allegations there are against each Minister?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I do not know whether the hon. Member will be benefited in any particular way by knowing the number. I gave the number in one other case and it did not help anybody at all.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: How many Ministers?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: There are more than one.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: As the Minister said that preliminary investigation is still going on and then there is the question in Orissa of a new leadership, may I know whether the Central Government is going to accept the leadership of a person who is connected with this investigation?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I am not in a position to answer this.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is it likely that the said murder of Mr. Sanyal will perhaps delay the preliminary investigations of the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a question or an observation?

شری عبدالغنی : کہا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں کہ انہوں نے یہ فرمایا ہے کہ جو الیکشن سرکار کو موصول ہوئے ہیں انہوں نے اس کی ایک کاپی مسٹر کنسرنڈ کو اور ایک کاپی گورنمنٹ کو بھیجی ہے تاکہ وہ اس کا جواب دیں تو کہا سرکار جو جواب آئے گا وہ اس ہاؤس کے سامنے رکھ دیں گی؟ اس لئے کہ ابھی تک جو پنجاب کے چیف منسٹر نے جواب دیا تھا وہ سرکار نے نہیں دیکھا ہے اور ہمیں معتبر ذرائع سے پتہ چلا ہے کہ وہ اس کے ساتھ ہے جو اس نے افسدہ پھیل دیا ہے - تاکہ ہاؤس کو اطلاع ہو کہ کیا جواب انہوں نے دیا ہے؟

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमायेंगे कि उन्होंने यह फरमाया है कि जो एलीगेंस सरकार को मौसूल हुए हैं उन्होंने उसकी एक कاپी मिनिस्टर कन्सर्नड को और एक कاپी गवर्नमेंट को भेजी है ताकि वह इसका जवाब दें, तो क्या सरकार जो जवाब आयेगा वह इस हाउस के सामने रखेगी? इसलिये कि अभी तक जो पंजाब के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने जवाब दिया था वह सरकार ने नहीं रखा है और हमें मोतबर जराये से पता चला है कि वह उसके साथ है जो उसने एफीडेविट दिया है, ताकि हाउस को इत्मीनान हो कि उन्होंने क्या जवाब दिया है?]

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: We cannot do anything which will prejudice the course of the enquiry.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, I want to rise on a point of order. In reply

+ [] Hindi transliteration.

to part (b) of the question, the Deputy Minister stated that it will not be in the public interest to disclose the allegations made against the Ministers. May I know what public interest is involved? The allegations have been made publicly. They have been made in the Assembly. The document that has been submitted to the President has been given to the Press for publicity. How is the Minister going to take shelter behind 'public interest'?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: If the hon. Member already knows all that, then he need not be very much worried but it is not a question of whether those charges are already known. It is a question of the way in which we deal with these. Allegations can be made, some of them may be true, some of them may be extravagant and wildly untrue. Therefore till we have dealt with those these it is rather very unfair to the person concerned that the charges are made and then they are broadcast everywhere. This hurts. I think public life will not be improved further by this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: It is immaterial whether I know about the charges or not. The question is whether the House can be deprived of the knowledge that has been made available to the members of the public.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The knowledge you want you already seem to have, and the knowledge that could be given is not in the public interest. Government is a party to the allegations and they think that they cannot be divulged now in detail till they have made up their minds.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: There is no question of Government being a party. The allegations have been made by M.L.A.s, and if the allegations are made known, they will be made known as being levelled by

M.L.A.s. The Government has nothing to do with the allegations. Mr. Chairman, may I submit that you reconsider the matter . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have submitted twice.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: In view of the fact that there are serious charges against Government, will Government come forward to make a statement that such of the Ministers who are proved guilty will not be allowed to continue in office and they will not be reappointed after some time, if not in their own Ministry, in the Central Ministry?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nanda, you do not want to make any statement as to who would be in office and who would not be.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have had four chances already and I am allowing you a fifth.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Three, not four, Sir. Now on a point of order.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: I have not got the answer, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have got the answer. I have told you.

SHRI A. D. MANI: On a point of order; I am not asking the Home Minister to disclose any confidential document that might have been received from the President. But one of the allegations referred to a flagrant violation of the Company Law and these violations are in the strictures made by the auditors who have criticised the handling of the funds of a company with which Mr. Bijoy Patnaik is connected. Will not the Home Minister make a statement at least on what is an open violation of the Company Law?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: The Company Law violations may possibly be under a separate investigation also,

but whatever is disclosed by this memorial—as he said—is going to be enquired into. Therefore, I think my earlier answer covers this also and I have not to add anything.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of submission. It seems the hon. Minister was taking the stand that the allegations by the M.L.A.s will not be made known to the public and to Parliament. But the questions are covered under certain rules and you will see that, first of all, we are certainly entitled to ask such things; they are not in the nature of secret things. Therefore they are not *ipso facto* debarred from placing them before the House. Now, suppose the M.L.A.s themselves publish these allegations, what happens then? Will they be prosecuted? Will they come under any law of the land?

AN HON. MEMBER: No, they are entirely free to do so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Suppose I knew this thing, I could have published that. Why then, in view of this position in the matter, and having regard to public interest, Government is not divulging the allegations made by the M.L.A.s against the Chief Minister, which the country is entitled to know? Is it because a particular Chief Minister had been a party-man of the Congress Party, or is it because of some other reason? And in Kerala, Sir, when we were in office, the Congress Party demanded that all allegations against the Ministers and others should be made public. The proceedings are there in the Kerala House and here. Why double standard is being set here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Gupta; this is not the point. Government do not want to repeat what has already appeared, because they are investigating it. There is no question of hiding anything.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You will please consider, Sir, that we are not at the investigation stage at all now.

In fact, we, Members of Parliament, would like to know from the authoritative source, namely Government. Parliament should not be left to guess, or live on documents which appear in the Press. The fact is not denied; the allegations have been received. Cogent arguments, under the Constitution or under the Rules of the House, should be given as to why they should be withheld now. They cannot just say: "We will not give it just because we do not like it." In the British Parliament all such allegations are given in White Papers, and why in this particular case these allegations are not even mentioned on the floor of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, at a certain stage here also they may make a statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: At a certain stage. What stage? The stage cannot be their choosing. The stage is to be determined by the House in public interest and we are making a submission here. I know they are in hot waters. Now therefore, Sir, I would request you to consult us. If we can convince you by showing precedents from the British Parliament and other Parliaments that we are entitled to have the allegations placed before Parliament, only then, Sir, you will compel the Government. Otherwise we will not press for it. Let the challenge be accepted in your chamber, and let them come up with arguments.

(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: May I make a submission, Sir? I crave the indulgence of the House. Sometimes there are cases where publicity . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir . . .

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: He is an outsider and he cannot speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow all of you at a time.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order; on what basis . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am on a point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is it?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now in what capacity is he rising in this House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As a Member of the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He is not a member of the House.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: He is a Member of the Lok Sabha.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Therefore he cannot rise as a Member here. You have to give us guidance. He is not a Member of this House. Probably you were under the impression that he was so and that is why you allowed him to rise; otherwise, I take it, you would not allow him. He is not a Member of this House; he is not the Minister in-charge and so he is not entitled to speak. We would like to have him in this House if he gets defeated somewhere. Now he is not a Member of this House and as such he cannot rise. He is a Member of the Government but not in charge of this portfolio and thus has no authority to speak on behalf of the Government in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would allow any Minister, who wants to speak on behalf of the Government, to do so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On behalf of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then we should be allowed to ask questions.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: My submission is that there are certain cases where exposure of allegations gives a chance to the accused person to manage his evidence, etc., and therefore it is not in the public interest for Government to disclose them. Always, when there is an enquiry, Sir, police enquiry or other, the allegations are not divulged because then the investigation becomes difficult.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Have the charges been already communicated to the persons concerned? Anyway he has said something on behalf of the Government.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I just wanted to explain further the position that arises out of a disclosure made on the floor here, or by somebody outside. The hon. Member said that the M.L.A.s were at liberty to say the same thing outside. Well, there the party concerned has a remedy. They can go against that person and file a suit for defamation. But here, these proceedings are protected; there is immunity. Therefore these are not on the same footing. This is a very substantial difference and the party concerned has no such remedy in the latter case. And as I said before, the consequences of disclosure may be one consideration, but the thing is that we have to maintain certain standards of public life, because it is quite possible, it does happen that sometimes wrong charges, baseless charges, are levelled against persons. We have to protect the dignity of public life also just as on the other side we have to take the most stringent action. We have to take these precautions also—it is in the public interest.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is a very unfortunate statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Before that, Sir, on a point of order; the

Minister ended by saying that they were baseless charges.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not said so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What did he say then? Anyway first, of all he did not accept Mr. Mahavir Tyagi's argument—that is very clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How can I, Sir? How can we when charges are piling up against allegedly corrupt Ministers? And you want us to be quiet in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to quieten anybody.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why then are they fighting shy?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not fighting shy. They have made as strong a statement as could be made in the circumstances. (Interruptions) Pleased sit down. Next question

*123. [The questioner (Shri V. M. Chordia) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 882—885 infra.].

*124. [Postponed to the 18th September, 1964.]

WORKING GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

*125. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any working group had been set up on scientific research; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of this group?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recommendations have not been finalised yet.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: What are the terms of reference for this working group?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The terms of reference are:

- (i) To make a critical review of the progress of the programmes and schemes in the Third Plan period.
- (ii) To assess in the light of the current trends and other available data the position likely to be reached at the end of the Third Plan period.
- (iii) To formulate proposals for the Fourth Plan in the perspective, wherever possible, of a 15 year period.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know if the question of co-ordination between the various research organisations that are operating under the Government of India is also likely to be referred to this working group, and if it is not being referred to them, whether the hon. Minister will consider the question of referring to them this subject of co-ordination between the various research organisations, and how it is to be brought about?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I can assure the hon. Member whether this question will be considered by this group or not, we are actively considering the question of co-ordination between the various research groups and agencies in this country.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Since research is the forerunner of any development in any country, I would like to know if the hon. Minister is directing this group to particularly concentrate on applied portion of research, instead of merely doing fundamental research as at present it is being done in the various national laboratories?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There is a distinction between fundamental re-