

Re. Qs. 479 and 489

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Sir, before Question No. 479 is taken up, may I request that Question No. 489 also which stands in my name and which deals with the same question be clubbed together with this?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: May I say that these two questions are different? That is, question No. 479 relates to the working of a particular society but question No. 489 deals with a number of such societies working in the Department. Therefore, they must be taken up separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we shall take them up separately.

ACCOUNTS OF FOOD DEPARTMENT CO-OPERATIVE CAFETERIA STORES

{ SHRI V. M. CHORDIA†:
*479. { DR. A. SUBBA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the answer given in the Rajya Sabha to Starred Question No. 469 on the 9th September, 1963 and state:

(a) whether accounts of the Food Department Cooperative Cafeteria Stores Ltd. have been audited, if so, what are the findings of the Auditor;

(b) whether it is a fact that no accounts were maintained for the last three years at the time of first Audit in 1962, and these accounts were presented to the Auditor later on without the approval of the Managing Committee;

(c) whether the President or the Vice-President of this Store had convened/attended any meeting of the Managing Committee during the last two years; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. M. Chordia

(d) whether it is a fact that nominations for election to the new Managing Committee were invited by the Secretary in February, 1963, and 13 nominations were received by him; if so, what action has been taken by the Deputy Registrar thereon; and

(e) what are the dues of the Government of India towards water, electricity etc. and what action has been taken by Government to recover these dues?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) and (b) The accounts of the Food Department Co-operative Cafeteria Stores have been audited from 1-7-58 to 30-6-59. Audit for the subsequent period could not be carried out due to the non-availability of statements of accounts and other records necessary for audit. The main findings of the auditor are laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The auditors report reveals that no meeting was held during the last two years. The reasons have not been given.

(d) This is being enquired into.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Findings of the Auditor

1. The working of the store has been far from satisfactory.

2. The Society is running fruit stalls in Krishi Bhavan and Jam Nagar House but no proper records have been maintained.

3. The stock as on 30-6-59 was not physically verified.

4. Certain payments were not supported by proper vouchers.

5. Accounts relating to empty bags and ghee require close investigation.

6. No meeting of the Managing Committee was held after 4-10-1958.

7. The Store obtained a loan of Rs. 0,000 from the Secular Co-operative House Building Society during the year 1961-62 though its maximum credit limit was not fixed.

STATEMENT

Sum of Rs. 4051-50 is due from Cafeteria Store to the Government on account of rent, electricity and water charges. An amount of approximately Rs. 2000/- due to the Cafeteria Stores from the Food Department Canteen has been withheld pending settlement by the Cafeteria Stores of their dues. The Cafeteria Stores have been reminded on several occasions to make payment of the Government dues. If no payment is made by them in the ordinary course, action as warranted by Law will be taken.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया : क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे कि इस कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर में जो भयंकर घोटाला हुआ है और जिसके बारे में ऑडिटर ने भी अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखा है कि वह इतने वर्षों से चलती रही है। इसके प्रेजिडेंट अपने फूड डिपार्टमेंट के सेक्रेटरी हैं और ऐसी स्थिति में भी इस स्टोर की व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं हो सकी तो क्या कारण है कि इतने वर्षों से सरकार इस स्टोर की ओर निगाह नहीं कर सकी ?

श्री ए० डी० मिश्र : दरअसल में इस स्टोर के बारे में अक्टूबर १९६२ को शिकायत आई थी और इसके बारे में रजिस्ट्रार दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को लिखा गया था कि इसकी जांच होनी चाहिये। लेकिन जो सोसाइटी के सेक्रेटरी थे उन्होंने एकाउन्ट्स तैयार करने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं कि जिसकी वजह से ऑडिट नहीं हो सका। इस सोसाइटी की दशा निश्चय ही खराब और चिन्ताजनक है जिसकी वजह से इसके प्रेजिडेंट ने जो कि फूड डिपार्टमेंट के सेक्रेटरी भी हैं रजिस्ट्रार

को लिखा है कि इस सोसाइटी को वाइन्ड अप कर दिया जाय ताकि इसका हिसाब किताब का अच्छी तरह से ऑडिट हो सके। रजिस्ट्रार दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन इस संबंध में कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं।

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Sir, I want to make an request because my name is in the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the time to make a request.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know..

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow you.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: I want it in English.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow you to make a request.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: It is only . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: My name has been . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Subba Rao, I ask you . . .

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: This is very unfair, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I very much resent this sort of thing. If the ruling of the Chair is given asking you to sit down, you have to sit down.

AN HON. MEMBER: He should be asked to withdraw.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया : क्या श्रीमान बतलायेंगे कि आपके सहकार विभाग के इन्स्पेक्टर इस सोसाइटी की जांच करने के लिए गये थे अथवा नहीं ? अगर गये थे तो क्या उन्हें समझा बुझा कर खाना कर दिया ?

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : इन्स्पेक्टर और आडिटर गये थे। उन्हें समझाने बुझाने की कोशिश की गई लेकिन वे समझा नहीं सके। सोसाइटी को कुछ समय और दिया गया ताकि वे अपना एकाउन्ट्स तैयार रखें। इस समय के बाद भी आडिटर वहां गये लेकिन एकाउन्ट्स तैयार नहीं थे जिसकी वजह से आडिट का काम नहीं हो सका। जैसा कि कहा गया है कि इस स्टोर की स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है इसलिए इसको वाइल्ड अप करने के लिए कार्यवाही की जा रही है।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नाजालजी चौरङ्गिया : जैसा श्रीमान जी ने अभी बतलाया कि आडिटर भी गये और इन्स्पेक्टर भी गये और उन्हें समझा बुझाकर रवाना कर दिया कि हम एकाउन्ट्स तैयार कर रहे हैं। तो मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूं कि इतने सालों तक उसकी निगाह इस स्टोर के घोटाले की तरफ क्यों नहीं गई और वह इसकी ठीक व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं कर पायी तथा इन्स्पेक्टर शासन के सामने इस चीज को कब साबने लाया ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: May I answer this question, Sir? In fact, this is one of the societies which are run by the employees of the Department of Food. And there is another question also concerning this. What the hon. Member has stated is correct that the audited balance-sheet of the Stores is available only in respect of the period up to the 30th June, 1959. Thereafter, the affairs were not conducted properly and then the *ex-officio* President, the Secretary of the Department of Food, himself was concerned over that and he asked the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to conduct the audit. Since there are these complaints, he has also advised the Registrar of Co-operative Societies that the Society may be wound up and the responsibility for these irregularities may also be fixed. So that the hon. House may rest assured that action would be taken against the erring office bearer.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: This is a co-operative institution under the Food Ministry which is intimately connected with the Ministry of Co-operation and it is working in the Capital, and it is expected that it would set an example to the rest of the country in the matter of the development of co-operation. Sir, if these are the irregularities found under the very eyes of the Ministers responsible for spread of co-operation, do they expect the country to enthuse over programme for the expansion of operation?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: This is merely a non-official organisation of the Government employees and, in fact, the other Secretary, did not actually want to interfere into the day-to-day working of the Society. When it was found that the accounts have not been audited for a long period of years and when complaints reached the *ex-officio* President, he immediately took action. He wanted the entire accounts of the Society to be audited by the Registrar. He also wanted action to be taken against it. In fact, this Society consists of a membership of 184 and another one is there with a membership of 379. In fact, when this question came up, only then did I come to know that this Society was not being properly managed. Of course, what the hon. Member said was correct. Since it is an organisation run by the employees of the Food Department, it should have been run perhaps in a much more efficient manner; it should have set an example to the other societies. But all the same, we have also to take into account the fact as to how it is managed. In fact, the Secretary is only an Assistant or an Upper Division Clerk. So, the superior officers did not want to interfere into the day-to-day functioning of the Society. It is their Society, mainly for the benefit of the low-paid employees.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Is Government giving any subsidy? What is the profit or loss incurred by the Society

during the last five years? What is the amount of subsidy given by the Government to the Society?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: The assets of the Society are about Rs. 5,000 odd, and the liabilities today are, of course, over Rs. 12,000. So, it is under a loss as far as the accounts are concerned. As regards the subsidy, Government is not giving any subsidy as such. All that it has given is accommodation and some furniture etc. in the Department of Food.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any suspicion of misappropriation of money belonging to the Society by the employees or by the management?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: All this will come to light when it is wound up and the accounts are finally prepared and audited. And maybe there might be some defalcation. We cannot say categorically.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: May I know whether the Food Ministry has any direct or indirect control over it?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No, the Food Ministry has no control, apart from the fact that the *ex-officio* Chairman is the Secretary of the Department of Food.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Is the Secretary of the Food Ministry the Chairman of the Society and one of the officials its Secretary? May I know whether this fact has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that the Secretary is not always available for listening to the complaints of the small employees and that he never turns up in his office in time? Is it also a fact that he is also the Secretary of so many societies in the city and this was the reason why the accounts could not be properly kept? Is it also a fact that so many times the employees made an appeal to the Secretary but he did not have time to listen to their appeals and was always missing? If he is the head of the Society . . .

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The allegations made against the Secretary are absolutely unwarranted. In fact, there are no societies under the control of the Department of Food. There are only two Societies which have been formed by the employees. In fact, I do not know from where the hon. Member has got all these information.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I have got it from the Secretaries of the other societies. I am not talking about the Secretary of the Ministry, but about the Secretary of the Society. If you do not listen to me properly and charge me

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know whether the Food Secretary has been the Chairman of this Co-operative Society for all these years during which no annual general meetings have been held, no accounts have been audited and many other irregularities have been committed? May I know what this very senior officer of the Food Ministry was doing when these things were happening under his very nose in a Co-operative Society of which he was the Chairman?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, the Secretary of the Department of Food is not an elected Chairman. By virtue of his office as the Secretary of the Department of Food, he is Chairman of the Society. (*Interruption*) But these facts were not brought to his notice. As I have already stated, this is an organisation . . .

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not his responsibility?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS . . . of the low-paid employees. In fact, when it was brought to his notice that the affairs of the Society were not being conducted properly, he immediately took action; he addressed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies saying that the accounts should be audited and then, if necessary, it might be wound up; not only that, that responsibility should be fixed, so that the

office bearers, if they were held responsible for that, for the lapses, could be proceeded against, and also to see if there was any misappropriation of funds, etc.

टिकट चेकर द्वारा एक कैमरे की चोरी

*४८०. श्री प्यारेलाल कुरील 'तालिब' :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे
कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि २० नवम्बर, १९६३ के लगभग गंगपुर रेलवे स्टेशन पर नियुक्त एक टिकट चेकर ने दिल्ली-बम्बई जनता एक्सप्रेस में यात्रा कर रही एक विदेशी महिला का कैमरा चुरा लिया था ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो घटना का विवरण क्या है ; और

(ग) ऐसी घटनाएँ आगे न हों, इसके लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

†[STEALING OF A CAMERA BY A TICKET
CHECKER

*480. SHRI P. L. KUREEL URU TALIB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ticket checker posted at the Gangapur Railway Station stole a camera belonging to a foreign lady, who was travelling by the Delhi-Bombay Janata Express on or about the 20th November, 1963;

(b) if so, what are the details of the incident; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes but the incident occurred on 10-10-1963 and not on or about 20-11-1963.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) On 10-10-1963, at about 21-15 hrs. when 24 Up Janata Express was standing outside signals at Gangapur City Station, a Ticket Collector of Gangapur City, entered, while not on duty, the Sleeper Coach No. 3924 and stole one Kodak 35 mm Camera, estimated value about Rs. 390/-. belonging to a foreign lady who was travelling on the lower berth in the ladies compartment of this coach. A passenger, who was also travelling in the same coach, saw the incident and grappled with the Ticket Collector who threw the camera out of the train. At Kota junction a report of the incident was lodged with the Guard of the train who issued a memo to the Assistant Station Master, Gangapur City, who in turn lodged a complaint with the Government Railway Police, Gangapur City at 4 a.m. on 11-10-1963. The Government Railway Police, Gangapur City registered a case U/s 379 I. P. C. and investigations are in progress.

(c) Prevention and detection of crime and prosecution of offenders is the responsibility of the State Police. Close co-operation is maintained with the Government Railway Police at all times for the control of crime and their attention is promptly drawn to any serious crime that occurs or increasing criminal activities in any particular area or train for taking remedial measures.

[रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री एम० बी० रामस्वामी) : (क) जी हाँ, लेकिन यह घटना १०-१०-६३ को हुई २०-११-६३ को या उसके लगभग नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है।