

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, whether the Chairman gets any other allowance besides this conveyance allowance of 39 dollars a day and daily allowance of 36 dollars—any allowance by way of entertainment?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is for the whole Delegation. An entertainment allowance is set apart for the entire Delegation.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: What is it?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have not got the exact figure.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Approximately.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: When I was there it was about 1,000 dollars. Sometimes it used to be exceeded.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Does this include the passage fares also to and fro?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir. That is paid in rupees up to London. It includes the portion of the fare from London.

*297. [For answer, vide cols. 1544—46 infra.]

A.I.R. NEWS BROADCAST REGARDING THE SEARCH OF THE LUGGAGE AND PERSON OF SHRI SHANTI PRASAD JAIN AT PALAM AIRPORT

*298. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Press Trust of India news bulletin subscribed by the All India Radio contained any report of the search of the luggage and person of Shri Shanti Prasad Jain at Palam airport;

(b) if so, whether this news item was included in the news broadcast over the All India Radio; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether any in-

quiry was made from the Press Trust of India authorities in regard to the omission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) and (c). No, Sir.

(b) The first authentic information about the incident was given on the floor of the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Revenue and Expenditure on 28th November, 1958 and it was broadcast in All India Radio news bulletins.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether the All India Radio authorities came by any news report of the search of the luggage of Shri Shanti Prasad Jain at Palam airport, the report which was published in the "Hindustan Standard", Delhi edition as well as in "Blitz" news magazine, even long before the matter came up before Parliament?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Reports appearing in newspapers about events happening are only broadcast in the news bulletins when they are verified and found to be authentic. In this matter it was not possible to verify this and only when the verification was available it was broadcast.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that the matter had been reported at least in one daily newspaper of the capital and another news magazine, may I know, Sir, whether Government considered it necessary to ascertain from the Enforcement authorities as to the authenticity of the particular news? If not, why not?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The reason for 'why not' is that Government has not got at its disposal any organisation like the Press Trust or the news magazine to send out correspondents and make verification.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the A.I.R. to broadcast news about

personal matters, of committing any offence or the like? Is that the policy of the A.I.R.?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The policy of the news bulletins of the A.I.R. is to publish all important news. They might have a personal angle; they might have a purely public angle.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Has the hon. Minister found out through his enquiry the reasons why the P.T.I. did not take interest in the particular news item, which became later leading news the moment it was raised in Parliament and from that point of view has great news value? And may I also know whether the reason as to why the Government was not, the A.I.R. was not, interested in broadcasting this news was because a big personality . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. No insinuation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I say that a certain person was involved and also among his luggage was found a biography of the Finance Minister of the Union Government.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I suggest that what appears from this question is that the hon. Member is very much interested—not that the Government is interested or not—in casting imputations on the *bona fides* of Government in this particular matter. I would submit that questions are not meant for this purpose. As for the facts, I do not know these particular facts. Government have not only pursued this matter as soon as they came to know about it with some vigour—and are still doing so—but obviously in a matter of this kind where enquiries are taking place, one cannot function, a member of the Government cannot function, as the hon. Member opposite normally functions. One has to be more precise, one has to know facts. One cannot throw about allegations and insinuations. But one should act with vigour.

That is what Government has done. As for the news bulletin, considering that it has to compress news in a very short space of time, naturally some kind of selective process has to be arrived at. It cannot give the whole newspaper in the fifteen minutes bulletin.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I regret very much the hon. Prime Minister should have cast so many aspersions against me. I know the Central Government is pursuing this matter. I did not at all cast aspersion. My point is this. It was an important news item and it became national news the moment it was raised in Parliament, and the P.T.I. did not circulate it. Since the A.I.R. are the biggest patrons of the P.T.I., did they make enquiries from P.T.I. as to why this particular news item, which was to become national news . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why a matter of this kind was not included in the P.T.I. news? I hope, Sir, I should not be misunderstood.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I got to know of it first from the P.T.I. myself and when I got to know of it, I enquired myself.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it the hon. Prime Minister's contention that before the matter came up before Parliament, he got it from the P.T.I. source?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: From the newspapers, not P.T.I. Some other paper, I cannot say.

WAGE BOARD FOR HOTEL INDUSTRY

*299. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state whether Government have received any demand for the formation of a Wage Board for the Hotel industry?