

सवाल यू० पी० एस० सी० तय करेगी तो ये परमानेंट हो जायेंगे। यह सबसे बड़ी सुविधा है और वे सब इसको चाहते हैं।

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: How does this new scheme differ from the present scheme which is now in operation? What are the salient features?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: There is no scheme at present. There are different persons for recording, editing of news etc. and they work in the different departments of the Ministry, and as I have said, they are all on contract.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over. Short-notice question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

FINANCE MINISTER'S STATEMENT ABOUT INDIA AND HER PEOPLE PUBLISHED IN THE AMERICAN NEWS MAGAZINE 'TIME'

4. { **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA**†: ...
DR. R. B. GOUR:
SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH:
SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:
SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM:
SHRI P. A. SOLOMON:
SHRI N. C. SEKHAR:
DR. A. SUBBA RAO:
SHRI Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the write-up on an interview by the Minister of Finance about India and her people to the American News Magazine "Time" published in its issue of the 1st September, 1958;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

(b) if so, whether it is the policy of the Government that such interviews must be given to the American journals before India's Finance Minister leaves for the United States of America for seeking economic assistance; and

(c) whether the views expressed by the Minister of Finance in that interview and published in the above mentioned journal represent the views of the Government?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no such policy.

(c) The views which are reported in this article are, as stated by the Finance Minister himself, his own personal views.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My first series of supplementaries will relate to what I consider to be the most offending portion. So I shall read it out:

"Our worst trait is that we talk against our colleagues."

I underline the word "is" and let us note that it is not "was".

"We are a weak people."

Again I underline the word "are" here.

"We are a weak people—cowardly, physically and mentally. Two thousand years of suppression have undermined the nation's courage until we became afraid of everything."

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: "Under the British we learned to evade taxes. We broke the laws clandestinely. We found it useful to tell lies. But, people are now beginning to speak out courageously."

Then come the remarks about the Prime Minister. To that I shall come later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't bother.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the Prime Minister aware that if Shri Morarji Desai had made such a statement about an ordinary individual and not about an entire nation, he would have most definitely made himself liable to both civil and criminal charges for defamation? So what is the remedy when a Cabinet Minister libels the whole nation? That is the question.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir, I am not aware of this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If he is not aware of it, I hope he will consult the Law Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He is not here but he will consult him in due course.

Can the Prime Minister name any self-respecting Indian, living or dead, who ever expressed such opinion about our great people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a question of the living or the dead. You have to make a comprehensive comparison.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Is this a historical examination that the hon. Member wishes to put me to, on past history, the present and also the future?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, are you testing him in history?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Prime Minister has written, "The Glimpses of World History" and so, he will not mind if I put him to a test.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That is the difficulty. I know more about history than the hon. Member opposite.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the hon. Minister who has superior knowledge please give me a straight

answer? Can he name anybody who had ever said such things about the nation, any self-respecting Indian?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he has said that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He has said that. Let him say either 'Yes' or 'No'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You do not allow this question, Sir?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I want to put one question. I want to ask the hon. Prime Minister as to whether any member of the Cabinet is within his right to express such views about the whole nation? Is he within his rights to ventilate his personal views in this manner?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not understand this question, Sir. I cannot say whether the report is precisely what the Finance Minister said.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He has owned it; it has been owned by him.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am not saying that the report is incorrect or not but, even a word changed here and there gives a different emphasis but what I say is, I cannot say anything. It is for him to answer as to whether he did say or did not say but one thing you must remember. Whenever a general talk is going on, one may say something in one context and another thing in another context. I cannot answer. If the Finance Minister were here, he would be able to tell us. How can I answer what he meant, in what context he said? If there is any historical statement made there, I can express my agreement or disagreement with it. That is all. In the list, there are a number of things. For instance, there is something about birth control, etc., with which I completely disagree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are neutral subjects for our friends, subjects like birth control.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I completely disagree with what the Finance Minister is reported to have said.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether any member of the Cabinet is within his right to express his personal views defaming the nation?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Obviously he has every right in regard to the vast number of subjects which are not covered by normal governmental policies or governmental programmes. Government policies or programmes do not cover the whole of our life.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Are Cabinet Ministers or Ministers of the Government free to speak about the Prime Minister in the way that Shri Morarji Desai has done?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: So far as the Prime Minister is concerned, he has no objection to their speaking about him in any manner they like.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: This is not a personal question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We are concerned with the constitutional propriety.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: It is a question of public importance. Have Government given Ministers freedom to criticise the Prime Minister in the way that the Finance Minister has done? He may be 100 per cent. right or 100 per cent. wrong. The question is not about the correctness or the wrongness of what he has said but about the propriety of his making such a statement as a Member of the Government. The Prime Minister's own wishes do not count in this matter. It is the constitutional

propriety of a Minister of the Government saying such things that is under discussion.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There may be two opinions as to whether what the Finance Minister has said about me is complimentary or otherwise. There are two ways of looking at it. It is not exactly what might be called a criticism in the normal sense of the word. He has discussed a subject which normally is not discussed in assemblies like this, for instance, whether the Prime Minister believes in God or not. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, for what I know, may not believe.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You also do not believe, according to him, it seems.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That again depends on what our definition of God is.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: The point is whether the other Ministers are also free to be as abnormal as the Finance Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: These are points of constitutional propriety. Can he name any Member of the Government in any democratic set-up anywhere in the world who has spoken of his people in this manner and about the Prime Minister and yet remained in office? History . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister is not here and the Prime Minister says that he is not satisfied as to whether it is an authentic or correct version or not. He talks about his belief in God. If God is a symbol of the mystery at the heart of the Universe, he believes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would beg of you not to introduce philosophy into this. It is a constitutional and political matter and I would beg of you not to introduce philosophy into this. Now, the Finance Minister has

owned up his remarks about India which have been published in the 'Hindustan Times'. It is there and the Prime Minister knows it. I would like to ask him, from what he has said, are we to understand that a Member of the Government can commit libel against any nation with impunity and, all that the Prime Minister of that Government has to do in the matter is to shield and explain away his colleague's conduct? Answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why no more, Sir? I too had been a student of constitutional history—and he is a much more knowledgeable person than me—but for the life of me I cannot think of any such occasion where a Member of a Government has spoken against the people and against the Prime Minister. He is taking it as a compliment and is trying to explain it away. It is sought to be explained away in a lighthearted manner. I would like to ask the Prime Minister to face a discussion in this matter. In the May's Parliamentary Procedure, you find that the Prime Minister is answerable to the House of Commons for the conduct of a Cabinet Minister and these things are taken very seriously. We are concerned with the political and constitutional propriety. Will he kindly face a debate over this question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: These are not questions. You are entering into a discussion. You are not putting a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: These are questions. You can say that this is not allowed. I can understand but, . .

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: These questions are hypothetical ones . . .

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I put one question? May I know whether, in the second half of the twentieth century, it is derogatory to remark about a person that he does not believe in God?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are bringing in God again. Do not bring His name again.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: May I further clarify my point?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to put questions.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Are Ministers free to talk of one another in public as the Finance Minister has done about the Prime Minister?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Answer this question for Heaven's sake.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is obvious, Sir, that not only Ministers but others too have to observe certain restraints naturally and more especially Ministers of a Government. If a person crosses those restraints, well, it depends on how, where and to what extent that is done. It is very difficult to frame rules about such matters. I am trying to speak rather objectively though my name has been brought in. I do not really see in the comments that are reported to have been made about me, whether I believe in God or not, anything wrong, either as Prime Minister or as anybody else. He seems to be discussing it in some other plane. That is not quite clear to me. I admit. So, how can I answer the hon. Dr. Kunzru's question because it is obvious that there are limitations even in human behaviour? Apart from the Ministers, two persons should behave with each other with certain restraints. When these limits are crossed, it is another matter. Sometimes they obviously so cross, sometimes doubtfully cross and sometimes are not crossed. So, I do not think anything very special has happened about the Finance Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the Prime Minister aware that because of the present Finance Minister holding such insolent views about our people and traditions and history, he is being boosted in the ruling circles of the U.S.A. and Britain as the successor of the Prime Minister? It is a press quotation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is irrelevant.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would ask, Sir, what action the Prime Minister is contemplating to take against the Finance Minister for these disparaging remarks unheard of in the constitutional history of the world.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच वस्तु विनिमय के आधार पर व्यापार

*४०७. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने कुछ वस्तुओं के बारे में पाकिस्तान से वस्तु विनिमय के आधार पर व्यापार करने के लिये कोई व्यवस्था की है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या व्यवस्था की गई है ; कौन कौन सी वस्तुओं का आयात और निर्यात किया जायेगा और किन शर्तों पर ?

†[BARTER TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*407. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangement for barter trade with Pakistan in respect of some articles; and

(b) if so, what is the arrangement; which articles will be imported and exported and on what terms?]

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग उपमंत्री (श्री सतिश चन्द्र) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.]

RELAY OF PROGRAMMES OVER A.I.R. REGARDING REMOVAL OF UNTOUCHABILITY

89. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of radio plays, talks, discourses and sketches regarding the removal of untouchability which were broadcast in the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 on different dates and stations; and

(b) the names of the persons who conducted those broadcasts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The number of persons who have broadcast runs into hundreds and it might not be practicable to tabulate all the names for being placed on the Table. The list can be seen by the hon. Member if he so desires at any time convenient.

STATEMENT

Number of programmes relating to removal of untouchability broadcast from different stations of All India Radio during the years 1956, 1957 and 1958.

Year	Radio plays	Talks	Discussions / Interviews	Story / pcems /
1956	73	132	50	17
1957	74	141	49	25
1958	32	66	27	12

(Up to 30.6.58)