

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: More especially to Ministers.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government aware that in addition to the steps that the Ministry is taking or has taken, something has to be done to curb the influence of certain types of films that are being shown in the country and what steps has the Ministry of Education taken to coordinate the efforts with that of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in this respect?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: This is a suggestion for action.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Does that mean that this suggestion has not occurred to the Ministry?

(No reply.)

ARTICLE "INDIA AND CHANGING FACE OF DEMOCRACY" BY SHRI R. K. RAMDHYANI

*585. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of an article "India and Changing Face of Democracy" written by Shri R. K. Ramdhyan, I.C.S., Secretary, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and published in the Independence Day Supplement of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of August 15, 1958;

(b) if so, whether the approval of Government was obtained by Shri Ramdhyan before such publication;

(c) whether the publication of such an article written by a Secretary to the Government of India is in conformity with the rules and practices that govern the conduct of public servants; and

(d) if not, what action Government have taken against this officer for writing the above-mentioned article and its publication?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Publication of the article by the officer was not in conformity with rule 5(2) of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1954;

(d) He has been warned to be more careful in future.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, I understand that he has been warned only. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why this great leniency has been shown towards him whereas disciplinary actions under these Rules have been taken against hundreds of Government employees in this country on mere suspicion of having expressed political views or other views not to the linking of the Government?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: I am not aware of the fact that action has been taken against hundreds of Government servants on suspicion of their having written something.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is technical. Anyway, in how many cases such actions have been taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In how many cases has such action—is it severe action or lenient action?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: What does 'such action' mean?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Actions like suspension, dismissal, charge-sheeting, use of article 311 of the Constitution in order to summarily dismiss without assigning reasons, etc.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: If we take all kinds of cases that have been dealt with since those rules were promulgated, the number will be pretty large.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it has not been a violation of Rule 4 of the Central Services Conduct Rules which said: "No Government servant shall be a member or otherwise connected with any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics nor shall he take part—there is a printing mistake and they don't even print these

properly—by subscribing in writing or assist in any other manner in political movement or activity". Here is the article which starts with 'India and Changing Face of Democracy' which accuses the Communist Party and various socialist countries. May I know whether the writing of such articles would not be regarded as a political activity?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: It has been regarded as being something wrong.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want an answer, Sir. Sir, you will protect me. I know I am against a very astute person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do'n't bother.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Please help me so that I don't have to bother. It says: '....in any other manner, any movement or activity'. Writing to a newspaper—I am an editor of a newspaper—is certainly an activity and I say that Mr. Ramdhyani had assisted the activities in this country against the Communist Party, and against the socialist countries. I would like to know about it.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: It does not amount to a breach of the rule to which the hon. Member has referred but it is not in conformity with Rule 5(2).

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I ask a general question because it raises matters of some importance. In the same issue of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, there is another article by an I.C.S. Officer on Community Development. It is a very useful article and I know that several senior officials write frequently in Special Supplements on commercial and other subjects. Therefore I am anxious that the answer given by the hon. Home Minister should not deter senior members from making such useful contributions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making a statement.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Therefore, I would like to ask the Home Minister whether sub-clause 2 of Rule 5 to which he has referred in his answer, namely, that previous sanction of the Government should be obtained or of any other authority empowered in this behalf, whether the implications of this sub-clause (2) have been clearly laid down in writing.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: The rule is clear enough. It lays down that no sanction is necessary where the contribution is of a purely literary, artistic or scientific character. In other cases approval of the Government or of the Minister concerned is necessary. I cannot discuss this . . .

(Interruptions.)

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I know whether the previous sanction of the Government is to be obtained in writing and whether that sanction is to be obtained before the article is submitted or whether in the case of a Secretary, it is sufficient if that article is submitted to his Minister before publication?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: I think he would be well-advised to obtain the sanction of his Minister before sending it to the press.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any explanation was taken from Mr. Ramdhyani and if so, what excuse he has given in his explanation for this article?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: His explanation was obtained and he said that he had written the article in good faith. Considering that it dealt with a purely academic matter in a scientific way . . .

(Interruption.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not completed. He started by saying that academic and scientific articles can be published. Then he said if the subject is treated in an academic or scientific way, no permission is needed. Anything else?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:
I said that even so we have warned him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, here is Mr. Ramdhyani's letter to me. I would like to know whether he informed the hon. Minister that he had written that letter to me, immediately he came to know that the matter was being raised in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, this is important because he appears to have devised two explanations and I have to elicit that fact from him.

"I read in today's paper that a discussion was raised in Parliament on my article—'India and Changing Face of Democracy' . . ."

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have to ask a question. Sir, am I not allowed to ask it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't refer to that letter, but refer to your question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, kindly allow me. If you so like, you need not allow me to ask other supplementary questions on other starred questions here. Sir, I would like to know this. Am I to understand that an officer of the Government of India can run down and in this manner malign any political party as long as it is not the Congress party or any country as long as it is a socialist country? Give a straight answer, please.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Academic things.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: The rules are very clear. Neither a government servant nor any other decent person should malign any individual unnecessarily.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: And any political party also?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:
Of course, even political parties should be dealt with with decency.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have circulated this article to certain Members and it maligns certain socialist countries and the Communist party. Why is this officer not given the sack for writing thus and so flagrantly violating the rules? I want satisfaction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, Shrimati Savitry Nigam.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have to make a submission to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Later on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to make this submission, Sir. I hope that you will kindly allow a half-hour discussion over this matter . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: . . . because in all the countries our party has been maligned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is a shame that the Government should behave in this manner.

(Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Next question.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, because the Government has given no satisfaction and in protest against the action of the Government, and with due respect to you, we walk out and abstain from the House.

[At this stage, Shri Bhupesh Gupta and some honourable Members left the House.]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Thank you, thank you.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Don't come back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I want you all to keep the silence.