

weakest section of the population of our country and there has been a proposal that the rural section alone is the only sector in India where there has been absolutely no tax evasion?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I do not know what would happen to the Plan if we decide not to raise any resources from the rural sector in the present state of our economy where the rural sector constitutes about 80 per cent of our population.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: The question was that 75 per cent of the rural holdings are uneconomic and the entire freedom movement veered round this idea that there should be ultimate abolition of land revenue.

Mr. Speaker: The information that the hon. Member gives cannot be a question.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Members can ask for the reaction of the National Development Council.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members first create a basis while asking a particular question.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Sir, is not a Member justified in asking what is the reaction of the Council? I am not giving any information, I am asking what is their reaction.

Mr. Speaker: That he has told us.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What were the specific suggestions or proposals examined by the Resources Committee in respect of raising additional revenue from the agricultural sector and what was the reaction of the Government on them?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: This was the first meeting of the N.D.C.—Committee on Resources. Members have made certain suggestions—for example, increase in land revenue, to what extent it is feasible, revision of irrigation rates and other things, resources for the panchayats and zilla parishads etc. All these points were made. But they are just in the nature of suggestions. Their feasibility, par-

ticability and to what extent the people are going to be affected etc., will be examined in the subsequent meeting.

Surrender of Unaccounted Money

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 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri R. S. Tiwary:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Chuni Lal:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the raids to unearth unaccounted money, some persons had approached Government with an offer to surrender their wealth provided no legal action is taken against them; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu): (a) and (b). While voluntary disclosure of income by persons liable to taxation is not altogether unknown to the Direct Taxes Department, there have been some such offers in the recent past. It is not possible to say that these are directly related to the raids. The bill before the Lok Sabha to amend the Income-tax Act is intended to help in this process of voluntary disclosures. Such offers are dealt with according to law.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: It has already been passed.

Mr. Speaker: The answer was prepared before it was passed.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: They should have amended the answer at least.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार इसको न्यायसंगत समझती है कि पहले एक आदमी कत्ल करे और फिर आकर कह दे कि मैंने मारा है, तो क्या उसको माफ कर दिया जाएगा ?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I am sorry that we did not correct the answer. It should have been "the Bill before Parliament" because the Bill has not been passed yet by both the Houses. I hope, Sir, you will accept my apology for it.

There is no question of murder or anything of that nature here. If people are willing to co-operate with us, naturally there will be no punishment.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जिन लोगों ने अनुचित उपायों से और ब्लैक मारकेट से रुपया कमाया है, क्या वे कातिलों से कम हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह आप क्या धारगुमेंट दे रहे हैं कि कम हैं या ज्यादा हैं ?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में क्या निर्णय लिया गया, कितने लोग गिरफ्तार किए गए और कितना रुपया आफर किया गया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो उन्होंने अपनी बजट स्पीच में सब कुछ बताया है कि गवर्नमेंट ने क्या-क्या किया है ।

श्री आगबत झा आजाद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सरकार को मालूम है और क्या मन्त्री महोदय बतला सकते हैं कि बीते हुए दिनों में अब तक के छापे मारने के बाद कितने व्यक्तियों ने आप को अपने धन का समर्पण किया और क्या आप यह समझते हैं कि इस नीति से सरकार उन लोगों को बढ़ावा नहीं दे रही है जो कि सम्पत्ति को जमा करते हैं और टैक्स का इवेंजुन करते हैं ? क्या आपने इस बात पर विचार किया है,

यदि किया है तो इस सम्बन्ध में आपकी क्या राय है ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As you have very kindly pointed out, this matter I have referred to in my budget speech. All the pros and cons are considered and then a decision is taken.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती : जो पहले छापे मारे गये थे क्या वे पूर्व सूचना पर मारे गये थे क्योंकि परिणाम यह निकला कि जिनकी सम्पत्ति बैंकों और लाकरों आदि में जमा थी वे उसको छापे पड़ने से पहले ही निकाल ले गये ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो वह छापे मारे गये थे वे पूर्व सूचना देने के बाद मारे गये थे या बगैर किसी सूचना के दिये मारे गये थे ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Naturally, when we make a raid we do not give any information before.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much money has already been deposited with government by such persons?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The announcement was made only on the 27th of last month. We have to wait for some time to know the results.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the *modus operandi* of government in getting these voluntary disclosures made? Is it left to the good sense of the persons who disclose them, or the income-tax officials persuade them, or some moral agency like the *Sadachar Samiti* persuades them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Once the income-tax department comes in, there is nothing voluntary about it. The good sense of the person comes in when, in the manner suggested in my budget speech, they make a declaration and deposit the tax in the Reserve Bank. Then that voluntary disclosure will be accepted.

Shri P. B. Chakraverti: While working out the formula of giving

concessions to those who voluntarily offer the surrender of wealth, may I know whether government draws a distinction between those who make an offer before the raids and after the raids?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position now is that anybody could make an offer. I think the Department is issuing a press-note today clarifying the position. If it is in the process of assessment, they have to negotiate with the Income-tax Commissioner about it.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The hon. Minister has stated that a number of people have expressed their desire to disclose their accounts. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that, as there was not adequate protection for those who honestly desired to disclose their accounts, there was the bitter experience in the case of food-grain dealers who were harassed when they disclosed their whole stocks?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not aware of any harassment in any other sector. If anybody voluntarily discloses his income and co-operates with the department, I am sure the department will see that he is treated fairly.

Shri Ranga: What steps are being taken by government to ensure that whatever is discovered during raids and is in the possession of the officer or officers is actually accounted for and credited to the government and there is no difference at all between the sums of money that are taken charge by the raiding officers and the sums of money which are actually handed over to the government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government have no reason to doubt that there is any discrepancy of the nature that the hon. Member contemplates.

Shri Ranga: That answer does not help us. We want to know whether they have taken any steps to ensure that. We would like to have that information.

Mr. Speaker: Does he mean that there should be a third party present

Shri Ranga: Sir, as a judge you should have known that whenever a raid is made on anybody's house all the properties are accounted for. Even in those days when our houses were being raided and our records were being taken over by the British Government, they used to give us a regular receipt for all the papers that they had taken away. Similarly, in this case also, are any steps being taken by government to see that there is no mischief played by the members of the raiding party, because it is quite possible that mischief can take place?

Mr. Speaker: An inventory is always prepared under the law. There would always be some scope for mischief by those who want to indulge in it. But we have to repose confidence in somebody.

Shri Ranga: We have seen the result of confidence being reposed even in Chief Ministers and Ministers. Therefore, definite steps must be taken by government to safeguard the interests of the citizens.

Mr. Speaker: Does he want another agency to supervise it?

Shri Ranga: When people have no confidence even in Chief Ministers, just to ask them to have confidence in some officers

Mr. Speaker: The Minister might take note of the suggestions that have been made by the hon. Member.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the wide publicity which has been given to this offer of government to people who come forward to make voluntary disclosures, has the Minister considered the possibility of some unscrupulous people taking advantage of this in order to disclose only a very small fraction of their total unaccounted wealth? In that case, would the government or the public at large be led to believe that because they have parti-

ally disclosed a part of their wealth, so they have thereby established their moral *bona fides*, as it were? What is the check prescribed to see that people do not evade payment of tax by simply disclosing a small portion of their income?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The extent of any immunity granted is limited to the amount of disclosure made. There is no estoppel, so far as the department is concerned, in regard to making further enquiries.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Would the Government be conducting further investigations in such cases or would they be taking it for granted that he is an honest man because he has partly disclosed his income?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister has already answered that the immunity would extend only to the portion of the wealth which has been disclosed.

श्री हुजूम चन्द कच्छबाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हाल ही में जिन स्थानों में छापे मारे गये हैं और जहाँ से 5, 5 हजार और 6, 6 हजार रुपया इकट्ठा किया गया है और उन्होंने बही-खातों में उन रकमों को दर्ज दिखा कर बतलाया है कि उन्होंने वह पैसा कमाया है तो क्या सरकार द्वारा उन रकमों को सौताने का विचार किया गया है ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Any money collected in excess of what is due to government will certainly be returned. According to the Bill which has been approved by hon. Members yesterday, they cannot keep it with them for more than 90 days. Within that time it has to be returned.

Ghaggar Project for Flood Control

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254. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri Karni Singhji:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Shiv Charan Mathur:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Starred Question No. 210 on the 26th November, 1964 and state:

(a) whether work on Ghaggar project for flood control has been started; and

(b) the progress likely to be made before the next rains?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). Ghaggar Flood Diversion Scheme is being actively processed by the Government.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the nature and financial implication of the scheme which has been finalised by the engineers and approved by the Planning Commission? Is it a fact that this scheme approved by the engineers and the Planning Commission is not acceptable to the Finance Ministry on technical grounds? If that is so, what is the nature of the objection of the Finance Ministry and how do government propose to resolve it?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): It has to be accepted that while dealing with the problem of Ghaggar, various aspects have to be studied, and studies have been conducted to find out how to use the water economically and efficiently in the best interests of the nation. Therefore, a number of schemes have been drawn up to utilise the water by way of lift or flow irrigation, by way of feeding into the Rajasthan Canal and the excess water being used in the diversion scheme. All these aspects were being carefully gone through with the assistance of the Ministry of Finance and I am happy to announce that some final decision will be taken in the next few days.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: My clear question was whether all the engineers are agreed on some particular steps to be taken or not. If they are all agreed, I would like to know the nature of that agreement and its financial implications.