

गृह-कार्य उप-मंत्री (श्री. जयश्री आलवा) :

(क) भारत सरकार को इस बारे में रिपोर्ट मिली है।

(ख) इस विषय पर विचार हो रहा है।

श्री पद्म देव : क्या गवर्नमेंट को पता है कि सोलन में लोग माल ले कर आते हैं, आने जाने का खर्चा करते हैं और फिर भी फायदा उठाने हैं। यदि हाँ, तो गवर्नमेंट क्यों इसकी उधेका कर रही है ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (पंडित गो० ब० पन्त) : मेरे समझता हूँ गवर्नमेंट के अलावा आपकी भी पता है कि आखिरी जब कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग हुई थी, उसमें यह फैसला हुआ था कि इन सब चीजों पर मेंट्स टैक्स लगाया जाए और उभके मुताबिक कानून का भस्विदा तैयार किया जा रहा है। जब वह तैयार हो जाएगा, पेश कर दिया जाएगा।

Shri Tangamani: The Deputy Minister admitted that there had been evasion of sales tax. But in reply to starred question No. 1422 asked on 2nd April, 1958, the Minister has stated that the State Governments have agreed to impose uniform rates on special goods at one point at 7 per cent., and that will help to avoid this evasion of sales tax. May I know how many State Governments have accepted the imposition of sales tax at one point at 7 per cent.?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question. This relates to Solan in Himachal Pradesh. The hon. Member is talking of Kanyakumari.

Shri Tangamani: The State Governments were asked....

Mr. Speaker: This is a small question relating to evasion within the State itself by traders bringing things in trucks and evading payment of sales tax....

Pandit G. B. Pant: It is not evasion. There is no law now.

Mr. Speaker: ... in a particular area, in Solan, in Himachal Pradesh, on the way to Simla.

Shri Tangamani: This sales tax....

Mr. Speaker: Sales tax applies to the whole of India. Therefore, shall we go on asking questions with respect to Kerala? The hon. Member is clever. He may ask a question separately.

Life Insurance Corporation

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Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri Rajendra Singh:
*1823. { Shri Easwara Iyer:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Yajnik:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether half of the lapsed policy fund of the erstwhile National Insurance Company Limited now taken over by the Life Insurance Corporation is invested in private companies; and

(b) whether these companies have the capacity to pay back these investments?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The National Insurance Company Limited did not have a lapsed policy fund. With your permission Mr. Speaker, I may inform the hon. Member that they had a fund called Capital Obligation Fund.

(b) The question does not arise.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether any part of this fund of the National Insurance Company has been invested in private companies before nationalisation, and if so, the extent of the fund invested?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Out of this Capital Obligation Fund, a sum of Rs. 6.50 lakhs was invested in two private limited companies.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether it is a fact that this fund has been invested in two companies called the Reform Flour Mills and Snow-white Products, which could not be traced even by the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies at present?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It has been invested in two companies named as J & K. Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd. and Impex (India) Ltd.

Shri Hem Barua: The Deputy Minister has just now said that this Capital Obligation Fund has been invested in private companies. May I know how many of the private companies in which this Capital Obligation Fund has been invested are controlled by Singhanian?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I think both of them are controlled by Singhanian.

Shri Hem Barua: What is the number of companies controlled by Singhanian and what is the amount of investment made by the LIC?

Mr. Speaker: How does that arise?

Shri Hem Barua: It arises because it is connected with this.

Mr. Speaker: Are we going into the names of all the traders and businessmen in this country, and asking which company is controlled by which man? Are we going to get rid of the private enterprise altogether? I am not going into these details. So long as the private enterprise is there, is it a crime for any person to take interest if he is a businessman? I would not allow any question to be asked here which makes the person against whom any question is asked appear as if he were a criminal outside. I am sorry. Hon. Members are not aware of their own importance. Whatever they say here gets so much of publicity outside that when once the mischief is done, it is impossible

for anybody on earth to get rid of the mischief. Those outside are equally entitled to respect as hon. Members here. We are only the agents of the general public.

Therefore, except in exceptional cases where the conduct is grossly unsatisfactory and there is something to be attributed against Government itself as a party, I am not going to allow individual cases of this kind to be brought up before this House even if it be to extol them, or otherwise to condemn them. Let us avoid these references.

Shri Hem Barua: May I make a humble suggestion? It is this, that Singhanian is not an individual in the context of our economic life. He is an institution.

Mr. Speaker: What if?

Shri Hem Barua: Singhanian is not an individual in the context of our economic life today. He is an institution, and as an institution, he controls certain companies in which the LIC has made certain investments. I just want to know—it is an innocuous question—as a humble citizen, how many companies, are in his possession (I do not say 'controlled', because 'controlled' is a bad word—and English is not one of my strong points) and what the amount so far invested is.

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of persons who are interested in various companies in which the LIC might have purchased some shares. Are we going into the cases of all those persons who are interested and so on? How does that arise individually?

Shri Hem Barua: He is an institution.

Mr. Speaker: All of us are also institutions.

Shri Hem Barua: Singhanian is as much an institution as Mundhra is.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to avoid this question even if he be an institution.

Shri Yajnik: May I know what efforts are being made by the LIC in order to recover all these funds that are invested in concerns which are not giving dividends today?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The hon. Member has asked a larger question, but I can answer about this specific matter. Firstly, I want to disabuse the hon. Members of the confusion that they have in their minds, by saying that the investment has not been made by the LIC. This investment was made by the private company before the corporation came into existence. Secondly, so far as the LIC is concerned it is taking all steps to recover the amount; and even legal steps are being contemplated by the LIC.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is it not a fact that some fund of this National Insurance Company has been invested in Reform Flour Mills, and Snow-white Products, before the companies were taken over by the LIC?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It has been invested in only the two companies which I have just mentioned.

Mr. Speaker: The other two companies which he had mentioned.

National Research Fellowship

*1824. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many fellowships under the National Research Fellowships Scheme were offered during the years 1956-57 and 1957-58 and how many of these were availed of;

(b) if all the fellowships have not been availed of, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to make the scheme and programme more effective?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) In 1956-57, thirty-eight National Research Fellowships were offered, of which 32 were utilised.

In 1957-58, no Fellowships were offered.

(b) Lack of suitable candidates.

(c) The scheme is being given wide publicity and facilities for research and higher studies are being expended and improved.

Peace-time Establishment of the Ordnance Installations

*1809. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the peace-time establishment of the Ordnance Installation has not yet been fixed;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be fixed;

(c) whether it is a fact that persons with 14 to 18 years service are still temporary in the Ordnance Installations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that persons in the Stores Department, even after having rendered more than 15 years service in higher grades, become entitled to pension on the basis of their substantive pay; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible to indicate any definite date.

(c) Yes.

(d) Large scale recruitment was made in the Army Ordnance Corps during the period 1941-45. As the personnel recruited belong more or