

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 18, 1994/
Shravana 27, 1916 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Counterfeit Currency

*341. SHRIBRIJBHUSHANSHARAN
SINGH :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Police have uncovered a plot to smuggle counterfeit currency in India as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated July 24, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons including foreign nationals arrested in this connection;

(d) the details of fake currency and other

materials seized from them and the action taken against them;

(e) the *modus operandi* of the gang involved in such smuggling;

(f) the number of such cases detected by the Delhi Police during the current year so far; and

(g) the measures being taken to check such cases?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that one Kamran Gohar, (r/o Akbari Mandi Bazar Noharian, Lahore, Pakistan), alongwith his accomplice Salma @ Billo, (r/o Jagdamba Colony, Johripur Extension, Delhi) has been arrested in a case registered u/s 468/471/489-C IPC and section 14, Foreigners Act at P.S. Gokalpuri, Delhi. Seven counterfeit Indian currency notes of Rs. 100/- denomination each, alongwith 2 forged passports, were recovered from him. It has further been reported that Kamran obtained the forged currency at Pak border while entering India from Atari. No *modus operandi*

could be established so far. In all, 60 cases of counterfeit currency have been detected by the Delhi Police during the current year. Following measures are being taken to check such cases :

- (i) Intelligence is being developed by Police to unearth cases of counterfeit currency.
- (ii) Each case of smuggling of counterfeit currency is deeply probed to find out the sources and *modus operandi* of the gang found involved in such crimes.
- (iii) Co-ordination with intelligence agencies and various State police organisations.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any other country except Pakistan is also involved in the smuggling of counterfeit currency? If so, the names of those countries and whether our Government has lodged any protest against these countries including Pakistan ?

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, following the information received that some Pakistani nationals are visiting Delhi on forged passports and also using counterfeit currency notes of Rs. 100/- denomination allegedly brought from Pakistan, a raid was organised by a Special Cell of Delhi Police on 22nd July, 1994, and Mr. Kamran Gohar, S/o Mr. Mohammad Shafi was arrested from Jagdamba Colony, Gokulpuri, Delhi. During the interrogation it is found that he crossed the border at Atari from Pakistan, Apart from Pakistani passport, he had two

forged passports. He is a Pakistani national. A case had already been registered. In the year 1993, 11 persons were arrested along with counterfeit currency notes. Out of them, eight were Indians, one was from Pakistan and the remaining two were Jordanians. In 1994, two persons have been arrested and they are from Bangladesh.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether fake money detector is available in India? If not, the efforts being made by the Government to make this machine available so that counterfeit currency notes could be detected?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have necessary equipments in our country to detect fake currency notes.

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) : Sir, I would like to know the number of cases. out of these seven cases, in which action has been taken by the Government and the reasons for not taking action in the remaining cases. In addition to it I would also like to know the total amount of counterfeit currency notes seized in these cases and the number of persons arrested therein.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, as I have already mentioned, in 1993, 100 cases were registered, out of which two cases were cancelled and 98 cases were admitted. Out of 98 admitted cases, nine cases are pending for trial. 12 cases are pending in investigation and the number of cases untraced is 77. In 1994, 60 cases were registered. And out of the 60 cases admitted, 40 cases are pending in investigation and the remain-

ing number of 20 cases is untraced. So far, 17 persons were arrested.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : The hon. Minister has given figures regarding persons arrested for possessing counterfeit currency notes. It is being observed that now a days 2 to 4 such type of cases are found in every city of this country. He has also accepted that the people belonging to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Pakistan etc. are involved in the smuggling of counterfeit currency. Sir I would like to know the measures being taken by the Government to check the fast growing circulation of counterfeit currency notes in the country so that we can check the circulation of counterfeit currency in future.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Situation is not that much alarming as has been stated by the hon. Member. This is not a nationwide problem. You have said that the figures of last three years have been given, I have given figures for the last one and a half year for which I was asked. To deal with this problem.....

[English]

Intelligence is being developed by Police to unearth cases of those persons who are smuggling counterfeit currency. Each case of smuggling of counterfeit currency is deeply probed to find out the sources and *modus operandi* of the gang found involved in such crimes. There is also coordination with intelligence agencies and various State organisations.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government took up with those countries about the involvement

of nationals of those countries involved in these cases. If so, what is their reaction ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Sir, my colleague has mentioned that some foreign nationals have been apprehended. But that does not necessarily mean that the counterfeit currency has come from that area; he only belongs to that particular country. He was involved in committing the crime, but that does not necessarily mean that the counterfeit currency is being printed in those areas.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, it is not an easy task to print such currencies because you need very sophisticated printing machines and printing press. I would like to know whether the Government has been able to locate any printing press either in India or abroad.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL : We have seen that the fifty rupee note which is in circulation now a days, has two types of printings. On some notes picture of Parliament, with a flag has been printed and on some other notes 'Satyamave Jayte' has not been written.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : The note which is not bearing Satyamave Jayte is counterfeit currency note.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL : These notes are in circulation on a large scale and people are in dilemma as to which one is the real note. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether these notes are counterfeit notes or real notes ?

[English]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, we will take up this issue with the Finance Minister, and if necessary, to educate the people as to how they can possibly find out which is counterfeit currency.

[Translation]

PROF. SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any legal action is taken against those persons who are found guilty of possessing counterfeit currency notes. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has such information that any conspiracy is being hatched in foreign countries to destabilise our economy and as a result of that these notes are being smuggled to our country.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Majority of cases that we come across in the counterfeit currency happens to be from the banks. It is not an easy task to find the exact position from where it comes from, within the country or outside the country, and we do not have that agency that the hon. Member has in mind.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : By way of supplementing the answer, I would like to say that the question which the hon. Member has asked is, in fact, very important. In fact, we are not so much interested in finding out who has committed the crime. But we go to the source and try to find out whether there is a conspiracy to see that our economy is adversely affected. If such a thing is there, that is the most important thing. But so far, we do not have any such thing.

Development Schemes for J & K

*342. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any development package for Jammu and Kashmir has been announced recently in regard to the debt relief and rural schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether progress of development schemes in the State is reviewed from time to time;

(d) if so, the details of the latest review made, particularly of the rural development schemes; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The progress of development schemes in the State is being reviewed regularly with a view to step up the pace of development activities and projects in J & K, and identify the difficulties and areas requiring further resource augmentation under various schemes. The last review meeting was taken by Minister of State for Internal Security on 20.7.1994. In addition, teams of Union Secretaries and other senior Central Government officials have been visiting the State frequently for detailed follow up action and review of various programmes with the concerned State Government officials at the field level.