

तक हो जायेगी और इस में धीरे धीरे 0.2 प्रतिशत प्रति वर्ष की दर से बढ़ि होती रहेगी।

(3) 1978-79 के अन्त तक राज्यों द्वारा बिजली के क्षेत्र में लगाई गई पूंजी पर छः प्रतिशत की छामदनी की मानक दर घपनाई गई है जिस में बिजली बोर्डों अथवा विभागीय उपक्रमों द्वारा अपने बिजली उत्पादन पर देय बिजली शुल्क और केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क शामिल है।

Memorandum from Lawyers protesting against Income Tax raid at Mehrauli Farm of Mrs. Indira Gandhi

752. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department officials recently raided former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's South Delhi farm at Mehrauli;

(b) if so, furnish facts of the matter and the details of the report on raid received by the Ministry;

(c) whether before conducting the raid the officers have complied with the formalities and the procedure as per normal rules, or was it in contravention of the same;

(d) whether Government have received a protest memorandum from leading lawyers of the country in this regard—details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government to the various points made therein and action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Director of Inspection (Investigation) had received information to the effect that some members of the household of Shrimati Indira Gandhi had buried a metal container under the floor of her farm house

in Chhatarpur village, and that it contained valuables. On the 19th of January, 1979, further information was received that digging was going on in the farm house of Shrimati Gandhi, presumably for the removal of the valuables. The Director of Inspection (Investigation) was satisfied after survey, that there was a *prima-facie* case for the search of the premises.

Since the belief on the basis of information received was that a metal container had been buried under the ground, a metal detector was used to locate the same. The metal detector failed, however, to reveal any metal container in the premises. The search did not result in any seizure.

(c) The prescribed procedure was duly followed.

(d) and (e). A memorandum was personally presented to the President of India by Shri Kamalapati Tripathi, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and others, on the 23rd January, 1979 pointing out *inter-alia* that the powers available under the Income Tax Act for conducting searches should be exercised with due care. The memorandum has further expressed the view that a complaint about tax evasion against a person in public life must be considered with the highest caution because such a person is "vulnerable to blackmail by political opponents".

It has also been brought to Government's notice that the daily press had reported on the 21st January, 1979 that "a group of advocates and former judges" had issued a statement condemning the search of Smt. Indira Gandhi's farm house and emphasising that any complaint about tax evasion against a person in public life should be considered with the highest caution.

Government have looked into the matter and are satisfied that the search in question was authorised by the Director of Inspection (Investigation) in the light of the information

available with him and strictly in accordance with section 132 of the Income Tax Act 1961 and the rules made thereunder.

Sale of Confiscated Goods

753. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Times of India dated 17th January, 1979 under the caption "Confiscated goods to be out on public sale";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the various observations point-wise made therein, and facts of the matter; and

(c) action taken for quick disposal of confiscated goods to the public through co-operative stores spread all over the country and details State-wise, of the sale of confiscated goods during 1977-78 and 1978-79 upto December and how does it compare with the corresponding period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). The Press Report referred to in part (a) of the question has come to Government's notice. It would not be correct to say that the State Trading Corporation and the Hindustan Machine Tools have failed to undertake the disposal of textiles and watches respectively. These organisations are finalising the scheme for disposal of such goods. The India Tourism Development Corporation is arranging to lift the stocks of liquor and the present stocks are expected to be disposed of soon.

For facilitating quicker disposal of confiscated goods, instruction were issued recently which provide, *inter-alia*, for disposal, by retail sale, of heterogeneous consumer items seized in small lots and confiscated to Government (excluding watches), after

meeting the requirements of Government Departments and educational research institutions, as the case may be. The Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., New Delhi has also been allowed to make group purchases of these items on behalf of its members.

The value of seized and confiscated goods lying in stock in the customs godowns, as on 31-12-1978, was Rs. 58 crores, and not Rs. 80 crores, as mentioned in the press report. The value of such goods that were ripe for disposal as on 31-12-1978 was Rs. 7.5 crores.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the field formations for expediting the disposal of confiscated goods ripe for disposal. The Customs Houses and Central Excise Collectorate, are making necessary arrangements for effecting retail sales. In some places, such sales have already commenced.

The proceeds from the sale of confiscated goods effected during 1977-78 and 1978-79 (upto December), were as follows:—

1977-78	Rs. 7.88 crores
1978-79 (upto December)	Rs. 2.06 crores.

(The state-wise break up of these figures is not available).

Proposal to help Sick Units

754. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 26th January, 1979 under the caption "Body to help out sick units proposed";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the various observations made therein; and

(c) the estimated number of sick units State-wise identified and the loan amount blocked with these units