

December, 1983 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 117/82-CE dated the 13th March, 1982 so as to relax one of the conditions for availment of the excise duty exemption which stipulates that the exemption on air-conditioner, refrigerators and water coolers under that notification should be availed of by a 'privileged person' within four months from the date of his arrival in India.

- (ii) G.S.R. 902 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1983 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to invoke the provisions of section 11 C of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 for remission of the Excise duty liability on certain iron and steel products for the period from 20th January, 1979 to 8th April, 1979.
- (iii) G.S.R. 903 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1983 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the facility of proforma credit under Rule 56A of the Central Excise Rules, 1944 to record players, record playing decks or record changer decks and parts thereof falling under Item No. 37A of the Central Excise Tariff.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7432/83.]

Annual Report of Development Council for Super Industry for 1982-83 and Review on the working of the said Council for 1982-83.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR M. S. SANJEEVI RAO) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report

(Hindi and English versions) of the Development Council for Sugar Industry for the year 1982-83 under sub-section (4) of section 7 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Development Council for Sugar Industry for the year 1982-83.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7433/83]

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Twenty-third Report

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : I beg to present the twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported discovery of an international gang engaged in printing fake Indian currency notes at Bangkok

SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD (Budaun) : I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The reported discovery of an international gang engaged in printing fake Indian currency notes at Bangkok and the steps taken by Government in the matter.”

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Mr. Speaker Sir. The Calling Attention Notices seem to be based on the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th December, 1983.

2. According to the information received from the Bombay Police, the Sahar Police Station, Bombay had arrested a gang of six persons allegedly connected with the film industry on 21st November, 1983 for possession and circulation of forged currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination and registered a case against them under Section 489 (B) and (C) of the Indian Penal Code. Earlier, on 19-9-83 and 24-9-83, the Crime Branch, CID, Bombay had arrested four persons, of whom one is film actor, for possession and circulation of forged currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination amounting to Rs. 4,24,200. A case against them has been registered under Section 489 (B) and (C) read with Section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code. Since June, 1983, the CBI has also registered 8 cases of counterfeiting of currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination. Investigations into all these cases are in progress.

3. It is believed that the source of manufacture of the counterfeit currency notes detected by CBI since June, 1983 and one of the cases being investigated by Bombay Police is somewhere in Thailand. These cases are being investigated in collaboration with INTERPOL.

4. I wish to take this opportunity to allay the apprehensions of the Members about the existence of a large number of counterfeit 100 rupee notes in circulation in the country. Cases of counterfeiting of currency notes are detected from time to time by the CBI and Police Departments of the State Governments and prosecutions are launched wherever necessary. The Reserve Bank of India have cautioned their Offices and Currency Chests to exercise greater care while examining 100 rupee notes. No efforts will be spared in conducting effective and expeditious investigation into these cases and prosecuting those guilty of any offence.

5. In conclusion, I wish to assure once again the Hon. Members of the House that Government fully share the concern of the Members of the House about the counter-

feiting of currency notes of 100 rupee denomination and are taking all necessary steps to complete investigation against the persons guilty so that prosecutions may be launched against them.

श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद : अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्टेटमेंट में कहीं यह नहीं बताया गया है कि अब तक कितने टोटल केसेज पकड़े गये और उनकी वैल्युएशन क्या है। सिर्फ बम्बई का जिक्र किया गया है और उसके बारे में भी कहा गया है कि इन्वेस्टीगेशन हो रही है, कम्प्लीट कब होगी यह नहीं मालूम। कई बड़े-बड़े शहर हैं जहाँ कि फेक नोट चलते हैं और चल सकते हैं, उनके सम्बन्ध में सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट, यूनियन टैरिटरिज या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने सिर्फ 1983 के केसेज बताये हैं कि 100 रुपये के फेक नोट उनके यहाँ जारी पकड़े गये लेकिन उसमें क्या-क्या कार्यवाही हुई, इसके बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा गया है।

12.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

इसमें यह भी एप्रिहेंशन है कि ऐसा हुआ होगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह कौनसी एजेन्सी है जिसने गवर्नमेंट को यह बताया कि बहुत ज्यादा स्कैंडल नहीं है, बहुत ज्यादा फेक नोट नहीं चल रहे हैं, मेम्बरों को इसमें बहुत ज्यादा परेशान नहीं होना चाहिए ? न इसमें यह बताया गया है कि कौनसी एजेन्सी से इन्हें सूचना मिली और न ही यह बताया गया है कि इन्वेस्टीगेशन कब तक कम्प्लीट हो पायेगी ? मंत्री महोदय इन बातों को बतायें तो मैं सबाल पूछूंगा।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
-JANARDHANA POOJARY) : We
have already mentioned in the main reply

about the seizure and how many persons were arrested. The arrested persons were released by the court. Even though it is a non-bailable offences the court has got the discretion, and it has released them, in spite of the fact that we opposed the bail. So far as the number of cases is concerned, I can give the figures right from 1980. In 1980 the number of cases reported was 1,075 and the number registered and investigated was 813. The number of pieces seized was as follows :

Rs. 100 notes	...	10,338
Rs. 50	..	1047
Rs. 20	..	2,780
Rs. 10	..	4,445
Rs. 5	..	67
Rs. 2	..	4,025
Rs. 1	..	21

In the year 1981 the cases reported were 802 out of which 756 cases have been registered and investigated. The details of the number of pieces seized are as follows :

Rs. 100 notes	...	8,263
Rs. 50	..	382
Rs. 20	..	2,757
Rs. 10	..	2,679
Rs. 5	..	132
Rs. 2	..	316
Rs. 1	..	10

In 1982, 1,338 cases have been reported. The number of cases registered and investigated is 1,065. The details of the number of pieces seized are as follows :

100 Rupee notes	...	12,225
50	..	42
20	..	5,077
10	..	2,284
5	..	34
2	..	76
1	..	4

In the year 1983, so far, as on 30.11.83 for the last 11 months, 1,124 cases have

been reported. Cases registered are 556.

100 Rupee notes seized	...	11,404	pieces
50	..	370	..
20	..	1,552	..
10	..	2,028	..
5	..	58	..
2	..	124	..
1	..	32	..

In the year 1983 the cases that have been registered have come down in numbers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Very good, they have not gone up.

श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद : इन जाली नोटों का टोटल बैल्युएशन करोड़ों रुपयों तक पहुंच गया है। मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि ऐमा कोई ज्यादा स्कैन्डल नहीं चल रहा है, इस लिए मैम्बरों को घबराने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। लेकिन उनके जबाब के अनुसार ऐसे नोटों की तादाद और बैल्युएशन हर साल कुछ न कुछ बढ़ते ही गए हैं। मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह नहीं बताया है कि जितने केसिज इन्वेस्टीगेट हुए, क्या उनमें से किसी में सजा हुई या नहीं। अगर मुजरिमों को सख्त सजा मिलती, तो यकीनन ऐसे केसिज में कमी होती, लेकिन वे बढ़ गए हैं।

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, the value of the pieces seized in the year 1982 is Rs. 12,57,920. In the year 1983, so far, for 11 months the value of the pieces is Rs. 12,10,790.

Regarding the convictions, even if a case is reported in the year 1983, the person concerned will be convicted or acquitted after one or two years. I can say here some of the cases about conviction.

In the year 1980, one person was convicted for 7 years, rigorous imprisonment and another person was convicted for six

months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500/-. In another case a person was convicted and fined Rs. 300/-. In another case one person was convicted for 2 years with rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500/-, in default of fine, 2 months, rigorous imprisonment. Similar cases are there.

SHRI MOHAMMED ASRAR AHMAD : In how many cases people were convicted and how many cases were registered ? When there are thousands of cases registered and investigated, the persons convicted were only 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 during these five years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right. Now Mr. Vikram Mahajan—absent. Mr. Harish Rawat—Absent. Mr. Virdhi Chander Jain.

श्री मोहम्मद असरार अहमद : मेरे सवाल का जवाब तो मिलना चाहिए ।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already replied.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD : He has not replied. हजारों केसिज की रिपोर्ट हुई इनवेस्टीगेट हुए और उनकी फाइनल रिपोर्ट मिल गई, लेकिन सजा सिर्फ चार पांच केसिज में हुई। बकाया केसिज का क्या हुआ ? क्या वे खत्म कर दिए गए ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Can he interfere with the judiciary ? It is left to the judiciary to commit people.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD : But we must have the information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already given you something. Yes, Mr. Virdhi Chander Jain.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He cannot interfere. Conviction is left to the court,

and he has said something, as some information is available. If you want full details of people convicted...

SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD : No, no. I want to make this clear. Out of the cases investigated, in how many cases conviction took place ? That is the question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, the Hon. Member will appreciate that this information has to come from all the courts throughout the country and it is left to the discretion of the court. So far as the Government is concerned, if it is a law and order case also they have to prosecute with seriousness, they have to take a lot of interest in the prosecution, they should also take a lot of interest in leading the evidence. After all, the judgement is to be given by the court after evaluating the evidence. We cannot interfere so far as conviction is concerned.

And so far as numbers are concerned in how many cases conviction is secured and other things.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can collect information from the States and send it to him.

श्री बृद्धि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यहां पर जो ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया गया है वह 12 दिसम्बर 1983 के 'हिंदुस्तान टाइम्स' की न्यूज के आधार पर किया गया है। माननीय मन्त्री जी ने यहां पर जो जवाब दिया है उससे भी स्पष्ट है कि बहुत अधिक संख्या में 100 रुपए के जाली करेन्सी नोट्स प्रचलित हैं। आपने यह फीगर्स भी दी है कि कितने फर्जी नोट्स पकड़े गए। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो फोर्ज्ड नोट पकड़े जा रहे हैं, उसके सम्बन्ध में जो चालान लिए जा रहे हैं और जो कन्विकशन हो रहा है, इस बारे में क्या आपको जानकारी है कि यह फर्जी नोट किस स्थान पर बनाए जाते हैं ? क्या वहां भी आपने घावा बोला है और उससे आपको क्या सफलता प्राप्त हुई है ?

दूसरी बात मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो इन्वेस्टिगेशन होता है, जो चालान प्रस्तुत किए जाते हैं उनको प्राजीक्यूशन अच्छी तरह से फाइट करता है या नहीं? जो चालान किए जाते हैं उनमें 50 परसेंट कंविक्शन होता है या 40 परसेंट होता है, हालांकि इसका निर्णय जुडीशियरी करती है, परन्तु यदि प्राजीक्यूशन साइड अच्छी तरह से केसेज को फाइट नहीं करता है या डी. एस. पी. एस. पी. की रैंक के पुलिस आफिसर द्वारा यदि इन्वेस्टिगेशन नहीं होता है तो उससे केस खराब हो सकते हैं और कंविक्शन नहीं हो पायेगा तो इस सम्बन्ध में आप क्या एप्रोप्रिएट व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं?

तीसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा क्या इसमें किसी फारेन पावर का हाथ तो नहीं है? जैसी कि अखबारों में न्यूज आई है, इसमें बैंकाक, थाईलैंड, चाइना का हाथ बताया गया है। क्या कोई फारेन नेशनल्स पकड़े गए हैं या अपने देश के लोग जो पूंजीपति हैं वे तो गड़बड़ नहीं कर रहे हैं जिसकी वजह से अपने देश में फॉर्ज्ड नोट्स की स्मगलिंग हो रही हो पाकिस्तान से, चीन से और दूसरे देशों से-इस सम्बन्ध में भी मैं सरकार से जानकारी चाहूंगा।

ऐसी भी स्थिति है कि अमरीका के सी.आई.ए. द्वारा दूसरे देशों का डि-स्टैबिलाइज किया जाए और डिमोक्रेसी को सकट में डाला जाए, तो कहीं सी.आई.ए. या ऐसी किसी दूसरी एजेंसी के द्वारा इन फॉर्जी नोट्स के द्वारा इस देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को डि-स्टैबिलाइज करने का प्रयास नहीं किया जा रहा है? इस सम्बन्ध में भी मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानकारी चाहता हूँ।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में जहाँ 75 प्रतिशत लोग एजूकेटेड नहीं हैं, आम आदमियों को

असली नोट पहचानने का तरीका भी मालूम नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ सरकार ने असली नोट पहचानने के बारे में क्या पब्लिसिटी की है, रेडियो, टेलिविजन या अखबारों के माध्यम से इस सम्बन्ध में क्या पब्लिसिटी हुई है?

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसकी वाइड पब्लिसिटी होनी चाहिए कि किस प्रकार का असली नोट होता है। यदि आप पब्लिसिटी कर रहे हैं तो उसमें आपने क्या प्रगति की है?

मैं यह भी जानकारी चाहता हूँ कि इस ट्रान्सैक्शन में किसी गवर्नमेंट आफिशियल या रिजर्व बैंक आफिशियल या किसी कर्मचारी का तो हाथ नहीं है? जिस प्रकार की यह एन्टी नेशनल कार्यवाही हो रही है, तो इसके खिलाफ आप नेशनल सिक्योरिटी एक्ट को क्यों नहीं एप्लाई करते हैं? यदि आपने उन केसेज के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की है, तो ऐसे कितने केसेज हैं, जिनमें आपने कार्यवाही की है।

मुझे उम्मीद है, जो मुद्दे मैंने उठाये हैं, उनका माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब देंगे।

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
Sir, so far as the involvement of foreign nationals are concerned, two Thai nationals were involved according to the investigation. But no power is involved. Thai Government is not involved. This is the involvement of criminals or we can say counterfeiters. These notes have been brought from Bangkok, Thailand to India in collaboration with the criminals of that country. So, I want to allay the apprehension and I want to clear the doubt in the mind of the nation or in the minds of the Hon. Members or people that there is no involvement of foreign hand. So far, the investigation disclosed no involvement of foreign hand. That is what I want to make very clear.

So far as the involvement of Reserve

Bank officials and Government officials is concerned, the investigation disclosed no involvement of Reserve Bank officials and also the Government officials. At the same time, I want to make it very clear that if there is any involvement, we are not going to suppress the fact from the House and from the nation also. We would give the details. But so far, there is no such involvement. That should be made clear and I want to repeat it also.

So far as publicity is concerned, more publicity is going to be counter-productive also. If we give more publicity on TV or radio or newspapers also, then it will create panic in the minds of the people that more counterfeit money is in circulation. But it is not like that. We cannot give exact number of counterfeit notes in circulation. But at the same time, we can say from the seizures made and the cases reported that the number of counterfeit notes in circulation is not big and it is not in good number also. That is why I can say that about the publicity, it is better not to keep on harping on that and too much publicity would go into counter-production also.

So far as the National Security Act is concerned, we are examining it. But at the same time, I can tell the Hon. Members that here only in this House at the time of passing the National Security Bill, the Opposition came stating that we should not apply. Any way, in these cases and in the criminal cases, we are considering and examining it. So far as the number of cases reported is concerned, I have already given the number and also stated the number of seizures that have been made in the course of investigation, in the particular case and also in the earlier case.

So far as the number of cases that ended in conviction is concerned, I can say that as far as the Government side is concerned, we are taking a lot of interest.

We are seriously concerned with the development of the case in the court also and we have to keep in mind the fact that the cases are being registered in the States also. That is State subject. In such cases, I appeal to all the State Governments also

to take interest in the prosecution and also to take interest in the investigation.

So far as the CBI is concerned, it is manned by people of integrity and efficiency. They are competent people and they are looking after that. We are proceeding with seriousness so far as the investigation and prosecution is concerned.

So far as the conviction is concerned, we are securing the conviction. After that, you know, in a criminal case, if some body creates doubt in the mind, a reasonable doubt, that is sufficient to acquite the cases. So, it is left to the discretion of the court and it is for the court to look into that.

I do not think that other points are left. I have covered many of the questions raised here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up legislative business.

12.26 hrs.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATIONS BILL*

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide, with a view to the more effective realisation of the objectives of nationalisation of life insurance business, for the dissolution of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and for the establishment of a number of corporations for the more efficient carrying on of the said business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved.

"That leave be granted to introduce Bill to provide, with a view to the more effective realisations of the objectives of nationalisation of Life Insurance business, for the dissolutions of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and for the establishment of a number of