

12.02 hrs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, M.P., in his notice of question of privilege against Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, has stated that on the 19th January, 1976, the then Hon'ble Minister of State in charge of the Department of Revenue and Banking while speaking in Lok Sabha on the "Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Bill" stated *inter alia* that "the scheme of voluntary disclosure has proved highly successful" and that "according to the latest available information, it appears that 2,42,400 persons made declarations of income amounting to Rs. 741.24 crores in the aggregate". Shri Bosu, relying upon the 123rd Report of the Public Accounts Committee presented to Lok Sabha on the 4th April, 1979 has observed that "this statement of Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee was a wrong statement" and that "it is a clear case of breach of privilege of the House and needs to be dealt with by the Privilege Committee".

The statement complained of by Shri Bosu was made on January 19, 1976, in this House while moving a Bill to approve the two Ordinances issued, namely, Ordinance No. 15/75 issued on 8th October, 1975 and Ordinance No. 23/75 issued on 29th November, 1975, providing for voluntary disclosures of income and wealth. At that time, the House had before it two Motions disapproving the Ordinance in question. In the course of his speech the hon. Minister observed thus:

"As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the scheme of voluntary disclosure has proved highly successful. According to the latest available information, it appears that 2,42,400 persons made declarations of income amounting to Rs. 741.24 crores in the aggregate. The income-tax payable on the disclosed income works out to Rs. 241.14

crores, of which a sum of Rs. 151.56 crores has already been paid. The remaining amount will be paid according to the scheme partly by the end of March this year and the remaining by the end of March, 1977.

A total number of 13,382 declarations have been made in respect of concealed wealth. The aggregate amount covered by these declarations comes to Rs. 812.11 crores. The wealth tax in respect of the disclosed wealth works out to Rs. 6.91 crores of which a sum of Rs. 3.99 crores has already been paid. The remaining amount will be paid partly by the end of March this year and the balance by the end of March 1977.

The scheme of voluntary disclosure has brought out a large amount of concealed income and wealth which can now be channelled into productive fields in the overall interest of the economy. This is by no means a small gain and justifies Government's decision to introduce the scheme of voluntary disclosure..."

The P.A.C. in the aforementioned Report has observed that even according to the representative of the Department of Revenue, the actual addition to the economy or net wealth was not Rs. 841 crores, but it may be of the order of Rs. 200 crores. They have further observed that "the Committee are unable to dispel their suspicion that a deliberate attempt was made to magnify the achievements of this scheme nearly by four times and thereby mislead the Parliament and the People." The Committee recommended that an independent enquiry should be conducted to fix responsibility for this wilful distortion of facts.

From the above facts, it appears that the information given to this House was wholly wrong. The question is whether the House was deliberately misled. If so, who is responsible for it? I expect the Government to direct an inquiry into these

questions without delay. This is a serious matter. It looks as if this House was taken for a ride. I would keep this matter pending till the inquiry report is available on the assumption that the inquiry will be held urgently.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU** (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make only one submission...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Not now.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** You can kindly give a date to them.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No please. I cannot give you a date. (*Interruptions*) Order please. I expect the Government to give a report. I have faith in the Government that they will submit a report.

Now we move on to Papers Laid on the Table. (*Interruptions*) I am on my legs. Mr. Bosu, you have not given any notice. I have called for the comments of the Government. (*Interruptions*) You know the procedure. Mr. Manohar Lal. I have to call for the report.

Now we move on to Papers Laid on the Table.

12.05 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION FOR 1979-80

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS** (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Communications for 1979-80. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4337/79*].

##### DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANS- PORT FOR 1979-80.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS** (SHRI

671 LS—9.

**LARANG SAI**): On behalf of Shri Chand Ram, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport for 1979-80. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4338/78*].

##### DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION FOR 1979-80.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND  
HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND RE-  
HABILITATION** (SHRI RAM KIN-  
KAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation for 1979-80. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4339/79*].

##### DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS FOR 1979-80

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR**  
(SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA): On behalf of Shri S. D. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for 1979-80. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4340/79*].

##### NOTIFICATIONS UNDER WELTH-TAX ACT, 1957 AND CENTRAL EXCISE RULES, 1944.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE**  
(SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table :—

(1) A copy of the Wealth-tax (Amendment) Rules 1979, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 169(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1979, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth-Tax Act, 1957. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4341/79*].

(2) A copy of Notification No. G. S.R. 506 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India