

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) (a) to (d) In the context of fall in production of M/s National Tannery Company Limited the Government of West Bengal suggested to the Ministry of Industrial Development an investigation under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951. Meanwhile the management represented to the State Government that they were able to set over their difficulties. The State Government has proposed to give a chance to the management to put the company back on its feet.

(b) The loans due by the company to the financial institutions as on 30th September 1972 have been reported as under-

	Rs in lacs
United Bank of India	79 14
Industrial Development Bank of India	33 52
West Bengal Financial Corporation	10 56
	123 22

**Organisation of "Saving" Slogan Competition by L.I.C.**

3723 SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a "saving" slogan competition was organised by the Public Relations Officer, Life Insurance Corporation, Government of India in the month of March, 1972.

(b) if so, the slogans in Hindi and English which won the first prize and the names of the winners; and

(c) whether the result of the slogan contest was published in the Newspapers, if not the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). These slogans are still under consideration of the Government. After the selection is made, the results will be announced through the Press.

**Loan to Kerala Government for stabilising Rubber Prices**

3724 SHRI VARKEY GEORGE Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether a loan of rupees one crore has been given to the Government of Kerala for the purpose of Rubber with a view to stabilise the rubber prices,

(b) the quantity of rubber purchased by the Government of Kerala, and

(c) whether proper certificates have been furnished by the Kerala Government for the utilisation of the loan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 30th November, 1972, a total quantity of 2879 tonnes of Rubber has been purchased by the Government of Kerala;

(c) The Kerala Government has so far furnished a certificate for an amount of Rs 40 lakhs only against the amount of Rupees one crore advanced as loan to them during 1971-72. Certificate for the balance amount is awaited.

12 00 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED ARREST OF OFFICIALS OF UNION HEALTH MINISTRY'S FOOD SQUAD BY U.P. POLICE AT CHANDON.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Shashi Bhushan —not here; Shri Vasant Sathe.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):** I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Reported arrest of three officials of the Union Health Ministry’s food squad on the 5th December, 1972 by the Uttar Pradesh Police and parading them through the Streets of Chandous town in Uttar Pradesh?”

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT)** On October 31, 1972, the Directorate General of Health Services received a complaint dated October 28, 1972, addressed by one Shri C. M. Sharma, Manager, Healthways Dairy Products Company (Regd.), New Delhi to the effect that M/s. Imperial Food Products, Sikanderabad, District Bulandshehar, UP, were manufacturing spurious condensed milk in their factory situated at Chandous, District Aligarh in UP. The complaint Shri C. M. Sharma was sent for on November 13, 1972, for ascertaining some details relevant for the purposes of conducting an enquiry. Shri Sharma met the officials of the Directorate General of Health Services on November 23, 1972, and furnished the required details. Thereafter, it was decided to depute two Food Inspectors and one Field Assistant accompanied by Shri C. M. Sharma to visit the said factory at Chandous with a view to investigating the complaint.

The team left Delhi in the morning of December 5, 1972, and reached Chandous the same day at or about 11.30 A.M. The Food Inspectors straightway established contact with the Station House Officer of the local Police Station and sought his assistance for the purposes of visiting the premises of the factory and conducting

necessary investigations. According to the Food Inspectors they showed their identity cards issued to them both by the Directorate General of Health Services and by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the S.H.O. is stated to have adopted an unhelpful attitude and asked them to proceed to the District Head Quarters and obtain necessary instructions from the higher authorities before he could move in the matter.

Since the District Head Quarters is situated at a distance of about 40 km. from Chandous the Food Inspectors seem to have decided that it would be better for them to proceed to the premises of the factory and go ahead with the investigations even without the assistance of the local police.

It is stated that the Inspectors reached the factory at 12.00 noon and after introducing themselves to the proprietor of the firm, wanted to draw samples of the condensed milk as provided under section 10 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. They felt that the attitude of the proprietor was cooperative at the beginning but within a few minutes some constables in plain clothes arrived at the scene whereupon the Inspectors detected a sudden change in the attitude of the proprietor who refused to allow the Inspectors to draw samples. The Inspectors decided to leave the premises but as they were about to depart, the Station House Officer arrived there. The latter took the two Food Inspectors and the Field Assistant to the Police Station. He asked one Inspector and the Field Assistant to wait at the police station and he himself accompanied the other Food Inspector to the District Head Quarters. On reaching Aligarh they went to the Additional Superintendent of Police before whom also the Food Inspector is stated to have produced his identity papers. However, the Additional Superintendent of Police desired to have

[Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit]

Further confirmation Therefore, the Food Inspector suggested that he might speak to the concerned official in the Directorate General of Health Services in Delhi over the telephone. The Additional Superintendent of Police spoke to the concerned official at Delhi over the telephone around 3 00 P.M. on the same day and was informed that a team of two Food Inspectors and one Field Assistant had, in fact, been deputed to investigate a specific complaint against the firm M/s Imperial Food Products.

With this confirmation the Station House Officer and the Central Food Inspector returned to the police station Chandous at or about 6 00 P.M.

According to the Food Inspectors the Station House Officer asked them at that belated stage whether they wished to inspect the premises. However, the Food Inspectors felt that in the background of the earlier protracted uncooperative attitude of the local police it was not the opportune time to proceed with the investigations. They also found that the manufacturer had collected a crowd and they felt that proceeding with the investigation might result in an untoward situation.

Therefore, they decided to return to the headquarters at Delhi. They reached Delhi the same night.

It has not been possible for us to obtain so far a formal report in the matter from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. However, we have collected some information from them informally through telephonic talk. It is not clear from the version given by the Uttar Pradesh officials as to why reliance could not be placed on the identity papers produced before them by the Food Inspectors. We have requested the Government of Uttar Pradesh to have the matter properly looked into and furnish us with all the details of the incident.

SHRI VASANT SATHE. Sir, as is now clear from the statement made

by the hon Minister, the matter appears to be, in fact, more serious.

Here is a case, when the Central investigation team goes to a place to investigate into the manufacture of spurious milk product and the local police officer, the Station House Officer, instead of cooperating with them after seeing the identity card as is now admitted not only of the Health Ministry but also of the Home Ministry, instead of cooperating with them tells them that he will not cooperate. Then when they go to investigate on their own and the manufacturer is willing to cooperate, the police officers of the Police Station go to the extent of helping the manufacturer and seeing that investigation does not take place. There the matter does not end. After the plain clothes constables asked the manufacturer not to cooperate, the inspectors were willing to leave. But what does the SHO do? He goes there and arrests the inspectors of the Central squad. Although it has not been put in the statement in a glaring way, the statement that had appeared in the newspapers, to which I want to invite the attention of this House and also your goodself, is very glaring. In the newspaper it is said

"Despite repeated protests, the harassed officials, two food inspectors and a field assistant, were deprived of their car, made to 'double up' to the police station by armed policemen and were in police custody for over six hours before they were let off and asked to 'disappear from the town.'"

This is the state of affairs in our country, in a place not far off from Delhi! Not only this when the inspector goes for confirmation, he is asked to go to the headquarters 40 kilometres away and bring the confirmation. The SHO is not satisfied with that. The newspaper report adds

"The SHO is reported to have abused the officers and placed them under arrest. When the officials

protested, waving their identity cards' the SHO is alleged to have directed his men 'to double up' two of the officers to the police station, while the third official he took along with him himself in the vehicle belonging to the food squad.'

The SHO used the car of the food squad and took one official with him to Aligarh. The other two food inspectors were made to 'double up' to the police station where they were kept for six hours under custody.

When everything is over and a crowd is collected, inspection becomes impossible. By that time, some manipulations also might have taken place in the whole racket of corruption. One of the officials met the Additional Superintendent of Police at Aligarh after he was taken there. He was also not cooperating. He wanted to get confirmation from the Health Ministry. Thank God, he did not say that he would like to speak to the Health Minister himself and until then he would not be satisfied. This was the attitude of the Additional Superintendent of Police. I do not think, he might have been satisfied even after speaking to the Health Minister. After harassing the officials for over six hours, the police let them off telling them to disappear from the place.

Please tell me, Sir, is this not a serious matter for consideration? What action has been taken against them? We asked for report. But no report has come up-till now from the State authorities. Is it not apparent even from the Minister's statement that there is a conspiracy in corruption? What more obvious case of corruption could there be? Spurious milk products are being manufactured. Some one goes from the headquarters to investigate. They do not allow the samples to be taken. Not only that, the officials there take them in their custody. What more proof can there be of clear-cut case of corruption and complicity in corruption? At least in such cases, shall we not take strict and

stringent action and set an example to the country that wherever officials are behaving in such a manner, they will not be allowed to go without proper and strict action? This is what I would like to know. Are we helpless? It can be said that law and order is a State problem; unless the State is willing to cooperate, what can we do? If that is so, hereafter, do not send any officials from the Central Health Ministry at all because your officials, even with their identity cards, cannot do anything in any State. If in one State this happens, all other States also will ignore the Centre's authority completely. In that case, what are we going to do? Therefore, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The matter should be taken up at the highest level with the State and these officials should be punished so severely under the law that an example will be set to the country that such things will not be lightly treated. I am sure, Sir, you also must be feeling as serious as the matter requires. Our hon. Minister is normally steadfast and calm and will not make a statement here which will show what action he is going to take. I request him not to hesitate in answering. I would like to know what is the attitude of the Government and what action Government intends to take in view of the seriousness of the matter.

**SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT:**  
The hon. Member referred to 'arrest'. According to the information received up-till now, we do not know whether anything like arrest or detention took place. It is confirmed that from that place to the police station, which is a distance of about two furlongs, they were asked to walk while the vehicle was taken away.

So far as the other facts are concerned, we have not yet received any detailed official information from the U.P. Government. From telephonic conversation, something has been received, but I am not in a position to take a definite stand in respect of the actual happenings and other details.

[Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit]

But certain matters are quite clear. First of all, there was no reason for the police officials, SHO or anybody else, to doubt the identity cards possessed by the inspectors. There were three officials. Unless they had some particular reason or information that they were pretenders, there was no cause for them to have treated the inspectors in the manner they did. That is clear.

Secondly, two constables suddenly appearing at the food manufacturing factory and doing what amounts to obstruction in the discharge of duty by public servants is an offence under the IPC. The actual details are to be confirmed. But one thing is clear (*Interruptions*) I agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Vasant Sathe that it is a serious matter. I know how sensitive the House is how the public has been regarding the increase in adulteration in foodstuffs and drugs. The public is getting more and more agitated over it and the fact that for various reasons Administration has not been as strong as it is desired. Therefore I do take it as a serious development and I can assure the House that after obtaining accurate information about the facts relating to this, we shall take, in cooperation with the UP Government every possible reasonable step to see not only that this does not recur in future but also that those who have acted wrongly are treated suitably.

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra)** This is another instance of violation of the rights of the Central Government by the officers of the State Government and it is a black spot on the record of the Police which is already black because every morning if we go through the newspapers there is one instance or the other where the Police has behaved in an atrocious manner or has planted a case on an innocent citizen or harassed an innocent citizen or has conniv-

ed in the atrocities committed on the weaker sections of the society. Here is a case where the Police has connived in a serious economic crime. Adulteration, all of us know, is a very serious and rampant crime which the Central Government is trying its best to combat. We have adulteration in drugs in food-stuffs and in medicines. Recently, there was a case of adulteration in Bengal where the edible oil was adulterated and 40 or 50 persons, all labourers were paralysed because of the adulterated oil and their families were thrown in the streets without food or anything. In such a serious economic crime we have an instance where the Police gives protection to those who indulge in such crimes.

So far as the record of the UP Police is concerned it is a very bad record. Only the other day there was an instance in Kingsway Camp where the UP Police ran wild and committed such atrocious crimes on the weaker sections that it cannot be even described. Here is another instance of UP Police wherein it has gone to the extent of arresting the officers of the Central Government. In fact, certainly nobody can expect or nobody can envisage the officers going to the Police station on a party. It was certainly not a party. It was that they were forced to go to the Police Station.

Any person forced to go to the Police station and kept there is deemed to have been arrested. So, the papers were correct in saying that these two or three officers were arrested by the Police because they were not free to go back either to the factory or to Delhi. So they were arrested. In fact they were arrested. Why? Because they had gone there to detect an economic crime of a person who was indulging in an economic crime. Here is a case where the Police itself is in connivance. So, as Mr. Sathe puts it, it calls for a very serious consideration by the Health Ministry and the State Government when the per-

sons or officers of the State Government are conniving in perpetuating crimes. Therefore, my questions are:

(1) Why have these Police officers not been suspended so far? What are the reasons for delay in suspending these officers?

(2) Will the Central Government call a meeting of the State Governments to see that in future enough protection is provided to the officers of the Central Government who go to the States to detect economic crimes?

(3) Will the Ministry of Health recommend to the Home Ministry to set up a commission which will look into these defects in the Police force and recommend that the Police force should be brought in tune with the needs of modern India?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: The hon. Member has referred to certain aspects of the factual position. Otherwise, the legal position and our moral and legal responsibility in the matter are quite clear.

So far as the facts are concerned, I am not in a position to add anything to what I have already stated. Until I get more authentic information from the UP Government and the officers concerned, I will not be able to give more information.

So far as the question of arrest is concerned, it is clear that they were asked to go to and remain at the Police Station until the SHO returned with the other Food Inspector after ascertaining the position regarding the identity from the Central office in Delhi. I do not wish to either exaggerate or understate the position. I have no reason to believe that the full co-operation, assistance and understanding will not be forthcoming from the UP Government.

The hon. Member suggested consultations with the State Governments. It is not necessary to hold a conference in a matter like this, as, as I said, both under the Food Adulteration Act and under the Indian Penal Act there

are sufficient penal provisions by which these situations can be dealt with. If necessary, we shall have an exchange of views with the State Governments concerned, but such a situation has come to our notice for the first time and we shall take adequate notice of it.

So far as his suggestion about suspension, etc. is concerned, until we know more about facts, I do not wish to say more. But I shall say very clearly and unequivocally that we will not leave any effort unpursued in order to see that those who have come in the way of discharge of the legal functions of the Health Inspectors are dealt with properly.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri R. K. Sinha—  
not here.

Shri Satpal Kapur—not here.

12.27 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NATIONALISED BANKS (MANAGEMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (FOURTH AMENDMENT) SCHEME, CENTRAL EXCISE (THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT) RULES, NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISE RULES AND INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION Act.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): I beg to lay on the table—

(1) A copy of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 715(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 1972, under sub-section (5) of section 9 of the Banking Companies Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3942/72]

(2) A copy of the Central Excise (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1972 (Hindi and English versions)