

[श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री]

अपना हवाई जहाज रखते हैं। इतने बड़े व्यापारी वह है। उनका नाम मुझे याद नहीं रहा। हर देश के साथ उनका व्यापार चलता है लेकिन भारत से नहीं चलता है। जब मेरे से उनकी बात हुई तो मैंने उनसे कहा कि आप भारत से क्यों नहीं अपना व्यापार चलाते? अपना आफिस भारत में क्यों नहीं खोलते? तो उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे दस वर्ष हो गए हैं भारत में गए हुए और उसका कारण बताते हुए कहा कि मेरे पास एक दफा 4 लाख का नॉटिस आ गया। मैं बम्बई के कर विभाग के अधिकारी जो आई० टी० प्रॉ० के दफ्तर में थे, उनके बुलावे पर गया। मुझे कहा गया कि अमुक तारीखको दस बजे आओ हाजिर होना है। मैं तीन बजे तक बैठा रहा। मुझे किसी ने नहीं पूछा और मुझे जो बाहर का चपरासी था, वह भी धक्के दे रहा था अन्दर घुसने नहीं देता था। अन्त में मैं बड़ी हिम्मत करके अन्दर गया और मैंने आई० टी० प्रॉ० को जा कर कहा कि मेरे साथ आपका यह व्यवहार है। और यह व्यवहार देख कर मैं निश्चय करता हूँ कि आपका नॉटिस मेरे ऊपर चार लाख रुपये का है, आप चार लाख 5 बजाने 6 लाख लगा देंगे तो भी मैं दोबारा आपकी शकल देखने नहीं आऊंगा। मैं इस देश से जा रहा हूँ और इस देश में अपना आफिस बन्द करके जा रहा हूँ। उनका कहना यह था कि जर्मनी में हमें इतने दिन बिजनेस करते हो गए मैंने आज तक किसी सेल्स टेक्स आफिसर या इनकम टैक्स इन्स्पेक्टर का मुँह नहीं देखा। इसलिए आपके कर विभाग के और दूसरे विभागों के जितने अधिकारी हैं उनका रवैया बदलना चाहिए और उन्हें जनता के लोगों को अपने देश का नागरिक समझना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात करोड़ों रूपया आपका बाकी है कर का, सवा पाँच अरब रुपये के करीब कर बकाया है। यह सरकार क्या कहती है इस मामले में? उसके पास इसका क्या जबाब है? पहले सुनते थे पाँच सौ करोड़ है, फिर साढ़े पाँच सौ करोड़ हो गया, कल को छः सौ करोड़ हो जायगा, परसों सात सौ करोड़ हो

जायगा, तो इस सरकार के पास इसका क्या जबाब है? अगर इसी तरह से एरियर्स बढ़ते रहेंगे तो सरकार का करना चाहती है?

मैं सरकार से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर वह केवल इस बकाया रुपये को उगाहने का निश्चय कर ले और कामयाबी के साथ उगाह सके तो घाटे का बजट बनाने की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी और जितना घाटा बजट में है वह घाटा पूरा हो जायगा।

15.15 hrs.

#### RE: REPORTED LEAKAGE OF GENERAL BUDGET

SHRI N. K. SOMANI (Nagaur) : Sir, I rise to a point of order before Mr. Sethi take the floor to intervene. I would like to make a very serious charge with which he is directly concerned. I am coming to the point. There has been a massive leakage of this budget, a copy of which—the entire proposals—was in my hands on the 26th evening which I did not believe as a matter of fact at all. As soon as I heard the budget proposals on the 28th, I lost no time at all and got into touch with the hon. Minister, Mr. Sethi, and brought this to his notice on the telephone.

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER : On the 26th ?

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : After comparing the budget proposals, soon thereafter, I telephoned him and I said, "I have reasons to believe and I have with me a copy of the budget proposals that had leaked out much before it was presented to the Lok Sabha." He said he will try and get into touch with me on Monday. The meeting did not take place. Soon thereafter, I had to go to Bombay. Cuirously enough, the same sheet of budget proposals incorporating 98 per cent of the tax changes—which is three percent more than their popularity claimed by the Prime Minister—98 per cent of the budget proposals were duplicated and sent at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, half-an-hour before

she was presenting this budget, to six editors of newspapers. I am holding the receipts which show the postmark, 4.30 p.m. on the 28th. I sent a message to Mr. Sethi from Bombay to get into touch with me so that there could be a full-scale and large investigation into this kind of public immorality resulting from the leakage from the Ministry. There was absolutely no reaction from him. As a desperate measure, on the 7th or 6th, I sent an urgent telegram to the prime Minister and brought to her notice that the budget proposals had leaked out. I said I had brought it to the attention of Shri Sethi. I had requested that there should be an instantaneous massive investigation, but I think the Prime Minister, because she thinks that we call her reactionary, has not reacted at all so this message.

Sir, I am making this statement with a full sense of responsibility and I am prepared to authenticate these sheets of paper and lay them on the Table of the House if you so desire. But the purpose of this presentation is this: that in the interests of public morality and in the interests of scruples, I would like either a Parliamentary Committee to go into this or the whole matter should be given to the CBI as soon as possible. That is why I wanted to intervene before Mr. Sethi started his speech.

**SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam):** May I say a few words before the Minister rises to reply to this? It is a very serious matter. I suggest that this matter should go to the Privileges Committee, because it involves the privileges of the House, whatever may be the reply to be given by the Minister. This must go to the Privileges Committee because there is a bona fide case which has been presented by the hon. Member. Unless you have got anything to doubt that, I feel on the face of it that this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee straightaway.

**SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam):** That is the least we can do. Let it go to the Privileges Committee and be discussed

there with the Finance Minister and others concerned.

**SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA (Barti):** I agree that this is a matter which should be immediately referred to the Privileges Committee so that the matter can be gone into thoroughly. The reason that I am giving is important. When the matter has been brought before the house, the wishy-washy reply that may be given by the Minister will not help. All the evidence which has to be collected by any later enquiry would be taken cognisance of by others and it would be destroyed. Therefore, this matter cannot be allowed to hang on, and should be immediately taken up, and your decision should be there, that this matter be sent to the Privileges Committee.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Kanwar Lal Gupta. Please do not elaborate. The consequences are known.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):** On account of the leakage many people have been benefited.

**श्री कंवर लाल गुप्ता (दिल्ली सदर):** उपाध्यक्ष जी, यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है और एक सदस्य ने यह जिम्मेदारी ली है कि वह इस को साबित कर सकते हैं। जब उनके पास रेकार्ड भी है तो मेरा कहना है कि इस को सी०बी०आई०की एन्क्वायरी के लिए दिया जाय और इंटेरिम रिपोर्ट एक दो दिन में मन्डे तक आ जाय कि आया यह एलीमिनेशन ठीक है या नहीं। मुझे यह मालूम है कि लाखों करोड़ों रुपया इस प्रकार से लोग कमा रहे हैं और लीकेज बजट का होता है, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। . . . . (स्ववचन) . . . .

**SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor):** In view of the leakage of the budget before it was presented to the House and in view of the pending investigation, can we go on with the discussion now? No discussion can be allowed. Government has to present a new budget.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (हं.पुड) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन केवल इतना है कि यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है सोमानी जी स्वयं उद्योगपति हैं। और इस प्रकार के सदस्य द्वारा जो स्वयं उद्योगपति हैं, इस प्रकार का अभियोग लगाया गया है। मेरा कहना है कि अगर आपने विशेषाधिकार समिति को केवल यह चीज दे दी, तो विशेषाधिकार समिति के पास क्या शक्ति है जो बाहर जा कर जानकारी ले सके। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार के गम्भीर मामले भविष्य में न दोहराये जायें। जैसा गुप्ता जी का कहना है—सी. बी. आई. या किसी गुप्तचर विभाग द्वारा इसकी जाँच होनी चाहिये ताकि मालूम हो सके कि इसमें कहां तक वास्तविकता है और किस तरह से लीक हुआ है। इस चीज को साधारण समझ कर नहीं छोड़ना चाहिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Certain submissions have been made. The Minister is here and he will reply. It is all before the House. So far as the privilege motion is concerned, kindly submit it in the proper form and the Speaker will consider it.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : यह प्रिविलेज की बात नहीं है यहां आपका डिस्मिशन माना चाहिये, आदेश माना चाहिये, आप इस सदन के मालिक हैं। इनका आदेश दीजिये कि इसकी सी. बी. आई. एन्कावायरी होनी चाहिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot give my decision on the spot offhand. The whole thing has to be gone into carefully. It is a very serious allegation. We have a right to hear from the Government and after that, we can go into the matter.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : According to the finest parliamentary practice, when a budget leakage has been discovered, it is only right that the Finance Minister should resign, pending the enquiry. She just happens to be the Prime Minister also.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJEE (Howrah) : The charges are very grave, but

it has come so late and it is very difficult to verify. Whatever be the document produced, the budget was presented on 28th February. It can never be a matter for privilege.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All these are points to be considered carefully.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Let the ministers verify the facts stated by Mr. Somani.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : Before coming to my speech, I would briefly refer to the point raised by Mr. Somani. I remember that last year also, it was Mr. Somani's name which was mentioned by Mr. Madhu Limaye. He had said that there was budget leakage, Government had promised that they would look into all the aspects. We certainly looked into those aspects and found that whatever was said was the normal, intelligent guesses or speculations which are usually taking place during the budget period.

As far as this year is concerned, the House will remember that because the Finance Bill was not introduced, the House re-assembled in the night. If I remember aright, I had no occasion to talk on that day to Mr. Somani on telephone, because I went home and I came back here at 10 o'clock. After the House adjourned, I went home and from there I went for a dinner. So, that was not the day on which Mr. Somani talked to me on telephone; it was possibly the next day. I am saying this because Mr. Somani said that it was on the same day immediately after the budget proposals were read out. Of course, I should not tell all those things which he told me.

Now he has compelled me to say all that. He asked me casually whether I am handing the budget or the Prime Minister. I told him that since the Prime Minister has presented the budget she would handle it. Then he said: if you are handling the budget, then certainly I have nothing to say; but if she is handling the budget, then I would like to place certain matters before the House. I told him that he is at liberty to do whatever he wants but if he wants to take me into confidence I will certainly be at his service. After that I had no occasion to meet him. Then a telegram came from Bombay to the Prime Minister wherein he

had stated that he had referred to me certain points. We are seized of the problem. We are enquiring into it. If he has anything positive to place before us and he does so, we will give very serious consideration to it. We will look into the matter in all its aspects.

**SHRI N. K. SOMANI :** Now fourteen days have passed. Does he know what date is today ? Does he remember on what date I first talked to him ?

**SHRI RANGA :** did they take the trouble to find out whatever further information and records he had in his possession so that they could ask him to supply them those records ?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** We will take all the trouble. But I would only like to say that if Shri Somani was so serious and he had certain positive information....

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** What do you mean by saying "if he was so serious" ?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** I know what I mean. It is no use shouting.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** I want to know if you are serious.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** I am serious.

**SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA :** The hon. Minister has stated that they are enquiring into the matter. That is one aspect of the question. The other aspect is leakage. The leakage itself is a gross and serious charge. The question who is responsible for it comes later on. On the basis of Shri Somani producing a receipt of acknowledgement, where the postal mark bears the time 4.30 p. m. on the day the budget was presented but before it was actually presented on that basis itself the case should be referred to the CBI for inquiry straightway and also to the Privileges Committee. This evidence indicates that the editors of the newspapers, whoever they may be, have received the budget papers at 4.30 p. m. The case should be referred to both CBI and the Privileges Committee.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** The leakage of the budget is a serious matter. If Shri Somani was in possession of certain facts, which he

now claims to be in his possession, he should have taken the first opportunity to come to the House and place everything before the House instead of going to Bombay. Coming to the evidence, he has just now shown some postal stamp mark of things despatched from here at 4.30 p. m. on that day. As far as I could see, that could be the receipt for certain letters despatched. What are the contents of those letters, that could not be so lightly gone into.

**SHRI N. K. SOMANI :** Sir, what is your ruling ? Is it going to be referred to the CBI ?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** If he has got something concrete and fool proof in his possession, we are certainly prepared to look into it with all the seriousness.

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** Sir, what is your decision ? This is a serious matter where you should act.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** I have said that a notice of privilege has to be given in the proper form when it will be considered and a decision given. I cannot give a decision offhand from here.

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** The leakage of the budget is a serious matter. We want an inquiry by the CBI.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** That allegation of leakage is from one side. The Government have given their reply to it. If you want to raise a breach of privilege, kindly give proper notice.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** We want to find out how the budget has leaked.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER -** When it is so serious, you should expect the Chair also to study it seriously, which cannot be done from here until a notice is received.

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** You may give your decision on Monday. We do not mind. But let there be decision from the Chair. You may give your decision on Monday after making necessary inquiry into the matter. We take it that you will give your decision on Monday.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** The hon. Member has to give notice in a proper way to the Secretariat, and it has to be put up before me and it has to be considered.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** You are talking about the matter of privilege. There is no motion of privilege. There is a point of order, and you have to dispose of the point of order.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** What is the point of order ? I thought that the question of privilege was being raised.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** It is a point of order about the budget leakage.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** If it is a point of order, then my ruling is that there is no point of order. Now, Shri Sethi.

15.35 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET 1970-71--  
GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :** By its very nature, the budget has to be a simultaneous exercise in several directions. It has to provide for the expanding needs of economy including the needs for development. It has also to be seen whether in its overall impact, the maximum feasible strides are made towards correcting the more blatant imbalances, and from this point of view, I could say with confidence that this year's budget proposals have been well received in the country as a whole, and several hon. Members, with the exception of two or three, have recognised that this budget is certainly an exercise in a new direction & a thrust forward. There has been an appreciation of the growth acceleration and the step-up of the plan outlay and the reduction in the disparities. Therefore, the climate of the country is conducive and favourable, and I could say that the budget has been well received.

Having made this opening remark, I would like to come to some of the points made by hon. Members. One of the points made by hon. Members, especially Shri

Asoka Mehta, Shri N. K. P. Salve and Shri M. R. Masani is that the tax revenues for the next year in this budget have been over-estimated. You would appreciate that as far as the tax proposals are concerned, the tax proposals by themselves envisage a further income of Rs. 170 crores on account of the new taxation measure. But besides this, if we do not take into account taxation measures which have been proposed for this year, the overall increase that has been envisaged here is of the range of Rs. 235 crores at the present level of taxation. It is from this point of view that we shall have to look into this.

As far as the import duties are concerned, an overall increase of Rs. 35 crores has been envisaged and from the point of view of the fact that a number of import licences have been given as yet, and on account of the recession being out and the industries clamouring for more raw materials, it is absolutely likely and quite perceptible that as far as the import duties are concerned, we can certainly envisage an increase of Rs. 35 crores and we have not over-estimated the increase as far as import duties are concerned.

Similarly, besides import duties, an increase of 10.1 per cent has been estimated due to excise revenue, and I would say that as far as the increase in the excise revenue is concerned, this exercise is not a futile exercise; neither is it an exercise in the air. It has been our experience, and it is on the basis of this experience that we can say that an increase of excise revenue to the tune of 10.1 per cent is not much. In 1968-69, the increase in excise revenue, when we were just beginning to get out of the recession period, was to the tune of 12 per cent. From that point of view we have been rather more cautious in our estimate of the excise revenue, and an increase of 10.1 per cent in the excise revenue is not on the high side.

Besides the excise revenue, there has been an estimated increase of about Rs. 45 crores in the income and corporate tax. Looking to the experience of our collections this year, whatever estimates we have made with regard to the Rs. 45 crores increase in the income from income and corporate tax is also not on the high