

ring it to the Department of Personnel. We have received it back with favourable comments. This matter is still under consideration. But that does not give any reason for this association of officers to start work to rule agitation especially when we have paucity of aircrafts and are facing other difficulties. We are already facing the problem of keeping to the schedule. To contribute to such difficulties and delays is really unfortunate. I think they will act in a responsible manner. I have already assured that the matter is already receiving the attention of the Government.

**Unearthing of Racket by Income-Tax Intelligence authorities in the Capital**

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\*1175. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:  
SHRI SHANKER SINHJI  
VAGHELA:

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

(a) whether the income-tax Intelligence authorities have unearthed a racket allegedly being operated by some promoters and brokers in the commercial and residential real estate business in the capital on 15th April, 1979;

(b) if so, whether number of high officials of the Works and Housing Ministry, the Delhi Development Authority and the local bodies are also suspected to be involved;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) whether any arrests have also been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Information presently available indicates that the Income-tax Authorities conducted searches in a few groups

of promoters of multi-storeyed buildings in Delhi as under:—

Ansai Group—December, 1973

Riviera Group—August, 1976.

Vadera Group—September, 1976.

Mittal Group—January, 1979.

The extent of evasion of Income-tax will be known after all the relevant assessments are completed.

(b) to (d). The information available does not show any involvement of high officials of Works and Housing Ministry, Delhi Development Authority and Local Bodies, or of any arrests having been made.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Sir, what I wanted to know through this question has not come out clearly. Anyway, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that a number of *benami* sales have come to light in this sort of investigation and it has also come to light that the sales were conducted by a coterie of financiers, promoters and brokers. If so, I would like to know whether it is possible for the Minister to come out with the names of this sort of people and what is the difficulty in controlling them.

SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH: Sir, the matters are all still under investigation and it is not possible to give out any details at the present moment. So far as it is known, there are not many *benami* sales, but they were 'on receipts'. They receive *benami* documents-cum-additional amounts. That has been found in certain cases. But these assessments are yet to be completed and unless they are completed, it is not possible to give all the information.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: In reply to parts (b), (c) and (d) of my question the hon. Minister said that the information available does not show any involvement of high officials of the Works and Housing Ministry and the DDA authorities. If it is so, then why

is it that in the month of May last year a few high officials of DDA and some of the school teachers and others were arrested and suspended? What is the reason for their arrests and why they were suspended?

**SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH:** Sir, this Ministry does not know as to why these people were arrested and it does not even know that they were arrested in connection with these cases. So, it is not possible to say anything about it.

#### **Penal Interest Chargeable to Commercial Banks**

\*1177. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the **DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE** be pleased to lay a statement showing

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank has declined to waive penal interest chargeable to the commercial banks on depletion in their statutory liquidity ratio to be maintained at fixed level with the RBI during the bankmen's recent agitation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for the first time that all major commercial banks including State Bank of India will be paying the penal interest;

(c) if so, how long this state of affairs will go and what are the main causes for the depletion in the Statutory Liquidity ratios; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that in the past, individual banks used to avoid any such imposition of the interest by borrowing money from the 'inter call money market' to restore erosion in their respective Statutory Liquidity ratio but now, as all banks have recorded the depletion, they can not avail of that facility?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULALH):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 empowers the Reserve Bank of India to impose a penalty on the scheduled commercial banks in respect of their defaults in maintaining the Statutory Cash Reserve Ratio and not Statutory Liquidity Ratio. The Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have not yet demanded any penal interest from the banks which have defaulted on the Statutory Cash Reserve Ratio during the period of bankmen's agitation as the relevant data are still awaited from some banks.

The Reserve Bank of India have reported that some of the major commercial banks have paid penal interest on several occasions in the past for their defaults in maintaining the Statutory Cash Reserve Ratio which occur due to temporary depletion of cash reserves.

The main causes for the depletion of cash reserves during the period of bankmen's agitation are reported to be non-receipt of returns from branches in time by the Head Offices of commercial banks, non-clearance of instruments due to the suspension of clearing and non-movement of funds etc.

The extent of recourse by the banks to the call money market to overcome temporary depletion of cash reserves is limited by the overall availability of lendable funds. Besides, the Reserve Bank has also asked the banks to reduce their reliance on external resources, such as borrowings from the call money market and the participation certificates.

**SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Sir, I went through the statement very carefully. One can infer by this statement that the Reserve Bank have no control over the commercial banks or indirectly they are allowing these commercial banks to commit this mistake and it has become very much inefficient. So, in this context, may I