

Parle Group of Companies

*86. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI DHARAM DAS SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in weekly 'Blitz' dated 26th April, 1980 regarding activities of Parle Group of Companies; and

(b) if so, what follow up action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some matters referred to in the report in the 'Blitz' are under investigation by C.B.I. Some others are being looked into by the concerned Departments.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My question is there on the same subject. And I have written to you to club Q 94 with this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, will you take Q 94 along with it?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It will lead to confusion. I do not want to do that.

श्री धर्मदास शास्त्री: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ—

(क) पार्ले ग्रुप के खिलाफ पहले भी छापे मारने गये थे जिनमें एक्ससाइज ड्यूटी की चोरी और लाखों रुपये के इन्कम टैक्स के घोटाले के मामले सामने आये थे। मालनीय मंत्री महोदय ने उस समय सदन को आश्वासन दिया था कि उनसे एक्ससाइज ड्यूटी भी चार्ज की जायेगी और टैक्स भी वसूल किया जायेगा—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही हुई?

(ख) क्या इस तरह के घोटाले करने वाले व्यक्ति, जिसकी इन्टीग्रिटी डाउटफुल है और जो सिविलाइज्ड स्मगलर भी है, को मूवमेंट पर कोई वाच रखी गई है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह व्यक्ति - रमेश

चाहान - कहां है जो इस तरह से घाटा कर रहा है, देश को बेच रहा है और लाखों रुपये की सम्पत्ति दूसरे देशों में जमा कर रहा है?

(ग) मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस व्यक्ति के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है? इसके साथ फेवरेटिज्म क्यों किया जा रहा है? क्या आप के अधिकारियों पर किसी का दबाव है? पुरानी सरकार पर तो दबाव था, क्योंकि इनका एक डायरेक्टर कान्ति भाई देसाई था, लेकिन आज कबन सा दबाव है, जो उसके खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं हो रही है?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The matter is under investigation of the CBI. After the CBI completes its investigation and makes its recommendations, action will be taken. My hon. friend wants to take action even before the CBI enquiry is completed. I would request him to wait till the enquiry is completed.

श्रीधर्मदासी शास्त्री: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा था कि आज कल रमेश चाहान कहां है? वह एक सिविलाइज्ड स्मगलर है, उसकी इन्टीग्रिटी डाउटफुल है, इसलिये उसकी मूवमेंट पर वाच होनी चाहिये, चाहे सी. बी. आई. इस मामले में जांच कर रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह आजकल कहां है?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I do not know where the offenders are. I am a very gentle person!

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, in the last Session, on this question a variety of charges on Parle Group had been levelled. Certain actions by the Finance Ministry had also been reported. During the course of this question, the hon. Minister had admitted that certain charges had been levelled and inquiries had been ordered on certain charges. I would like to ask a pertinent question as to how many of the charges were under CBI inquiry and on what charges a specific investigation had been ordered by the CBI and on other charges levelled and reported in the Blitz widely why action has not been taken.

It was also alleged that Rs. 50 lakhs had been looted and piled up by the Company in Singapore and New York, and Mr. Ramesh Chauhan, Managing Director of Parles, transferred Rs. 5 lakhs officially for starting Parle International in New York, in order to get a Green Card enabling him to intensify his activities in U.S.A. It was also alleged that accounts were manipulated in such a manner that the amount was written off in the books in Italy while retaining the amount in the books here. And I have got credible information that Rs. 3.15 lakhs have been kept in the Swiss account. I would like to know whether these charges have been included for investigation when the CBI inquiry had been ordered by this Ministry.

There were also allegations earlier and the raids were conducted, but I do not know why the charges have not been framed and action has not been taken. I would like to know whether it is also a fact that certain incriminating documents found in that Company have been destroyed by the Director who is working in the Finance Ministry and whether all these things have been included in the charges. I would also like to know at what point of time the CBI action will be completed and prosecution will be launched in respect of those involved in these cases because earlier also there were such charges.

(Interruptions).

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the hon. Member has mixed up a number of things.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I have not mixed up.

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: In fact I am helping you.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Thank you.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There are some charges relating to Rs. 3.15

lakhs. There are some charges which the hon. Member has mentioned about Rs. 50 lakhs and odd, on which I have no information. I will send an extract of his observations to the CBI for further investigation.

So far as the action taken is concerned, there are some matters in which action is taken on criminal offences committed. There are certain matters in which departmental action is being taken. I find it rather difficult to give more information at this stage because it will help more the people who are involved in it rather than Parliament or the country. If the hon. Member still insists, I will have to give the information.

SHRI EDURADO FALEIRO: In this very House allegations have been made that Mr. Ramesh Chauhan, Director of Parles, has evaded excise duty of Rs. 2.5 crores and also Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 lakhs of income-tax, but nothing has been done due to the patronage of the former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. We know that there is a CBI enquiry, but the allegation which has been made, and specifically made, is that there are enforcement officials who are interested in squashing this entire enquiry. Therefore, will the hon. Minister particularly and specifically reply to my question that he will see that the officials do not interference?

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question? It is a suggestion.

SHRI EDURADO FALEIRO: Will the hon. Minister look into the question and probe the vital aspect of Parle's connections with Singapore and New York?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The hon. Member has asked me to personally look into the matter. I shall do it. When the report comes, I will look into it personally.