

SHRI A. K. ROY: One more point. Have you enquired whether most of these persons who are now losing belong to Harijan, Adivasi and weaker Sections of society?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: We will do the needful.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Is it a fact that the main reason for non-payment is that at the time of getting the policy, the policy-holder does not give the name of the nominee because it is an optional thing? Will you make it compulsory? In that case the position of payment will improve.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: There are so many suggestions to improve the working. This suggestion is also one of them. But I would like to inform the House that out of 73862 pending cases, 62719 are pending for want of information from the policy holders themselves. All attempts are being made. Therefore, the element of paying interest is also added so that the policy-holder is not a loser.

श्री इयाराम शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, जैसा कि फिर्मा से जाहिर होता है, दिनों-दिन अनपेड-मैच्योर्ड पालिसीज की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। सरकार अथवा एल० आइ० सी० लाखों रुपया पब्लिकेशन और प्रचार पर खर्च करती है, क्या मंत्री महोदय इस प्रकार का निदेश देंगे कि जो पालिसीज कुछ समय तक अनपेड रहने के बाद ट्रेस-अपड नहीं होती हैं, उन के बारे में रेडियो और अखबारों में सूचना दें ताकि उन के वारिसान को सूचना मिल जाय और वे आप को कान्टैक्ट कर लें।

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: All attempts are made to find out the policy-holders. But in many cases there whereabouts are not known because the addresses are changed. The attempts are also made to contact them through the filed officers. The field staff is also involved. All efforts are made to see that the policy-holders are reached and, therefore, an

element of payment of interest is also added.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to delays in the settlement of claims on the part of policy-holders and the number of claims pending due to delay on the part of LIC.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: As I said, the total number of pending cases in 1979-80 were 73,862 out of which 62,719 cases were because of the necessary information not being provided by the policy-holders. So far as non-payment on account of default of the LIC itself is concerned, the figure is only 512 out of 73,862 cases.

Income-tax raids on stockists of Food-grains, Cement and other Essential Commodities

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933. **SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:**
SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income-tax Department has recently conducted raids on the stockists of foodgrains, cement and other essential commodities at Calcutta, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Bhadrak and Muzaffarnagar;

(b) if so, the details of the firms raided and the outcome thereof; and

(c) action proposed against the erring firms in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH S'SODIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The searches were conducted on 19-2-1981 and 20-2-1981.

(b) Details are given in the Annexure.

(c) The cases are still under investigation. Action as warranted under the law is being taken in these cases.

Annexure

Sl. No.	Name of the firm/persons from whom assets or documents/books were seized	Approximate value of assets seized (Rupees)
1	M/s. Parmeshwari Lal Purushotam Lal, Calcutta Searches conducted at Silliguri, Calcutta and Bhadrak.	7,05,000
2	M/s. P.P. Enterprises, Calcutta	48,000
3	M/s. Tarachand Shiv Kumar, Calcutta	Nil
4	Shri Parmeshwari Lal Agarwalla, Silliguri	6,21,713
5	M/s. T.S. Enterprises, Calcutta	10,000
6	Shri Tara Chand Singhal, Calcutta	15,000
7	M/s. Rahimia Land & Tea Co. Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta	Nil
8	Smt. Sushila Devi Berlia (alias Aggarwalla)	1,92,607
9	Smt. Saroj Singhal, Calcutta	32,022
10	Smt. Chandee Devi Singhal, Calcutta	1,44,464
11	Smt. Godawari Devi, Muzaffarnagar	Jewellery and 137 silver coins (Yet to be valued)
12	Shri L. Ram Bhagat Rai, Muzaffarnagar	10,000
13	M/s. Pyare Lal Pirag Lal, Silliguri	Nil
14	M/s. Lachman Dass Duli Chand, Muzaffarnagar	Nil
15	M/s. Berlia Trading Co., Muzaffarnagar	Nil
16	M/s. Nathu Mal Anand Kumar, Muzaffarnagar	Nil
17	M/s. Shree Lachnam Rice Mills, Muzaffarnagar	Nil.

In addition to the above, books of accounts and other incriminating documents have also been seized.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Out of 17 firms given in the Annexure, I would like to know how many firms had lockers in how many banks, whether searches were conducted only in respect of a few lockers and others were not searched, and if searches were conducted what is the outcome of the searches conducted of the lockers owned by them in different banks.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: The preliminary report from Calcutta,

Silliguri and Bhadrak shows seizure of valuables in the form of diamonds, gold jewellery, unaccounted bank drafts and stocks and shares. The total value of assets seized at these three places is Rs. 16 lakhs—unaccounted jewellery—Rs. 9 lakhs; bank drafts—Rs. 6 lakhs; cash—Rs. 90,000 and shares—Rs. 48,000 ornaments of daily wear of ladies which are also unaccounted to the extent of Rs. 2,90,000 have been inventorised, but not seized. Thus, the total unaccounted assets at Bhadrak, Jalpaiguri

and Silliguri alone amounted to nearly Rs. 20 lakhs.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: He has not answered my question. I wanted to know whether searches were conducted of lockers owned by different firms and whether some lockers were exempted because of some pressures.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: No, Sir, as far as the information which I possess. I do not have that information.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: The hon. Minister has given an answer that some incriminating documents have also been seized. I want to know whether these documents revealed tax-evasion and, if so, the total amount. I would also like to know whether these documents reveal the names some of the members of different political parties and, if so, what are the names and to which political parties they belong and whether it is a fact that these people are bringing pressure to stall further proceedings in the case.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: I am sorry, in reply to the first supplementary, I did not give the position of lockers. The actual position is this. In addition, 2 lockers have been sealed in Muzaffarnagar. At Muzaffarnagar, a lot of incriminating documents and accounts have been seized. One of the *munims* of the assessee groups was found trying to remove valuable evidence in this connection. Though he pleaded that the documents belonged to him, they have now been deciphered as belonging to the assessee groups. Jewellery studded and semi-precious stones have also been seized.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that these. (Interruptions) parties had floated benami concerns to cheat the Government and to cheat the Income-tax Department? If so, how many benami concerns are involved and to what extent money involved in these benami concerns?

SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA: The figures I have are placed before the House. The matter is still under investigation. It is true that the Department obtained reliable information. The searches are, therefore, authorised.

The information obtained is positive. Therefore, it was set up.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उपाध्यक्ष जी, क्या इस तरह के छापे पटना या देश के कुछ अन्य बड़े बड़े शहरों की फर्मों पर भी मारे गये हैं? अगर मारे गये हैं तो उनका क्या नतीजा निकला? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस तरह के छापों की नीति को आगे भी बढ़ाने पर सहमत है?

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न के दो हिस्से हैं। मैं दूसरे हिस्से का जवाब पहले देना चाहता हूँ। शासन की यह निश्चित और स्पष्ट नीति है कि जो लोग टैक्सों को बचाते हैं और कालाबाजारी करते हैं, उनके खिलाफ अगर शासन के पास समुचित सूचना है तो सख्ती के साथ एक्शन लिया जाए। दूसरे के बारे में मैं पिछले चार सालों की जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ—

Year	No. of searches made	Amount seized (Rs. Lakhs)
1977-78	617	353
1978-79	1,345	502
1979-80	2,109	1214.68
1980-81 up to 31-3-81	3,746	1,926

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, our Government is taking certain action against hoarders, black-marketeers, stockists and all other anti-social elements. During the course of these raids, certain political parties, the opposition parties, are preventing such raids in the country and this has been revealed recently even in Srinagar where the officers who went for raids have been prevented and have also been tortured. (Interruptions)

Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government is taking serious steps to protect such courageous officers who are making bold efforts to unearth these black-marketeers and hoarders and what steps have been taken by Government to spot the black-marketeers and hoarders and also to know the role of the political parties who prevent such raids whether it is in Srinagar or anywhere else and what is the protection which is given to these officers?

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: The first information which the Ministry has, has been placed before the House yesterday by Hon. Finance Minister in Lok Sabha. I placed the information in the Rajya Sabha. As far as the other precautions which the Government should take are concerned, the Government is seized of what has happened in Srinagar. I can assure the House that Government will abide by the requirements of law and the law will take its own course. Everything will be done to protect the officers and to see that they are in a position to discharge their lawful duties.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: To check black money and hidden wealth, sudden raids on the houses of hoarders and black-marketeers are always welcomed. But here in this case—I do not know about Calcutta and Mujaffarnagar—regarding Siliguri this information was publicly circulated a day before undertaking these special raids, and the blackmarketeers and hoarders were alerted. I would like to know very clearly from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken against those officers who circulated this information earlier to the public.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): The hon. Members should be aware that under section 132 of the Income-tax Act, Government or any officer of that rank in the Ministry has no power either to order a search or to stop a search being conducted. And I want

to assure the House that we have not authorised any searches by the Ministry of the Government. It is all done on the basis of information received by the investigating officer who is authorised to conduct these searches. In the case of these three places, sufficient information having been received, the searches were authorised by the officer concerned. Actually the searches showed that there were a lot of incriminating documents as well as valuables. They were seized. The other matters are under investigation. If, after investigation, further questions were put, we will give full details.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

News item captioned "Capital Goods Export—Rs. 100 crore deal with USSR"

*932. **SHRI SURAJ BHAN;
DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a news-item appearing in the "Financial Express" dated 4th December, 1980 under the caption "Capital goods export—Rs. 100 crore deal with USSR":

(b) if so, the names, status of the leader and other Members of Soviet delegation who visited India in this connection, duration of their stay, outcome of discussions held with the India counter-parts and names of places visited by them; and

(c) the break-up details of the agreement reached viz the value of exports and imports on bilateral system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). This was a commercial level delegation and not a Government delegation. Under normal