

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Is Darjeeling a prohibited place?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: There is no restriction about Darjeeling.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Foreign tourists are permitted to go to Srinagar and everywhere, but not to Darjeeling, the only hill station in West Bengal. This is hampering tourist flow. It is the only hill station where a permit is necessary for foreigners.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: This is a matter to be taken up with the Home Ministry. We have already taken it up, and we have already expressed our opinion to the Home Ministry. We said, "Yes; do it." But, then, when it is a matter of security, they have to take the decision.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT : Will the Minister inform the House whether PATA have suggested the drawing up of package programmes containing Temples and Monuments of India, Forests and Wild Life of India, Dances and Music of India and several other subjects, to be sold in advance in foreign countries with the aid of various foreign travel agencies which are operating all over the world? What happened to that suggestion made by PATA? Have we gone ahead with it? How much progress has been achieved?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: We have taken note of the suggestion; and as far as possible, we are trying to provide promotional effort through the media as well as by documentaries and by providing necessary literature. Besides, we also arrange India Evening meetings with the travel agents. And we invite the travel agents to come to India and see, and stay as our guests, on hospitality basis. All these efforts have shown some results; and I am quite confident that with sustained efforts

we will be able to attract more tourists to this country. We have worked out a number of package programmes in collaboration with Air India, Indian Airlines and Railways. They are all available and they are being offered to the tourists.

I.T. Raids in Ahmedabad

***374. SHRI RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Income Tax authorities have made raids and searches of some businessmen, industrialists and business houses on 11 October, 1982 at Ahmedabad and have sealed also some of the offices of the said businessmen, industrialists and business houses;

(b) if so, the reasons for such raids and searches;

(c) the details of incriminating and illegal materials/gold, silver, unaccounted money, documents, movable and immovable property and other things found there;

(d) what action has been taken against those involved therein and the particulars of the parties, persons and others involved; and

(e) the details of other raids and searches made in Gujarat from 1 June to 15 October, 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) to (c): Consequent upon the receipt of information, Income-tax authorities searched the residential and office premises of Dr. Prashant S. Shah of Ahmedabad on 11th and 12th October, 1982. No. valuables were seized. The search resulted in the seizure of some papers and documents which are under security. One bank locker was sealed.

(d) Appropriate action under the Income-tax Act and other Direct Taxes Acts will be taken.

(e) During the period from 1-6-82 to 15.10.1982, 37 searches were conducted in Gujarat. Having regard to large number of cases, it is not practicable to give the details of all the searches. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have information in a specific case, the same will be furnished.

श्री रामजी भाई माविण : अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि डा० प्रशांत एस० शाह के यहां रेड हुई जिसमें कुछ डाकुमेण्ट्स मिले हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ :

(ए) जो इंफॉर्मेशन आपको मिलती है उसके सम्बन्ध में रेड करने से पहले आप कोई जानकारी प्राप्त करते हैं या नहीं ?

(बी) जो लाकर्स सील किए गए उनमें कुछ निकला या नहीं ?

(सी) कुछ लोग जो कर चोरी करते हैं उनके यहां रेड की जाती है लेकिन कुछ लोग जो कर चोरी नहीं करते, उनके यहां भी रेड की जाती है इसलिए रेड्स कैसे की जायें—इस बारे में भी क्या सरकार कुछ विचार कर रही है या नहीं ?

SHRI PATTABHAI RAMA RAO: The information received was that a particular gentleman had sold a flat in Bombay, and given a very low figure and subsequently the Directors of a Private Company had used in the Gujarat High Court saying that he had sold a particular flat for Rs. 25 lakhs whereas he had shown the price as Rs. 5.75 lakhs. So, in the court itself, they had filed a suit that he had sold it for Rs. 25 lakhs. Actually, our Department has enough information to show that there is plenty of black-money.

श्री रामजी भाई माविण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह बतलाया गया है कि लार्ज-स्केल पर रेड्स की गई

हैं, जब कि केवल 37 सर्चेज हुई हैं जो लार्ज नम्बर नहीं है। "झोपड़-पट्टी एन्कोच-मेण्ट्स" की लिस्ट 100-100 ग्रादमियों का देते हैं, जब कि जिन के यहां रेड्स हुई हैं उन की संख्या केवल 37 है, इस के बारे में क्यों नहीं बतलाया जाता है ?

SHRI PATTABHAI RAMA RAO: There are 37 searches which were conducted in Gujarat. If it is in the whole of India, then there are several more. Out of 37 searches, if the hon. member wants to know about a particular case, I can send the information to him. But it is not possible to give information in respect of all the 37 cases. It will take time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that Shri Sanjay Dalmia of the Golden Tobacco Company has violated the Central Excise Act as well as the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act and actually has evaded crores of rupees of the Central Excise Duty of the Golden Tobacco Company. As a result of number of raids conducted by the Central Excise Department and after the raids were conducted, is it a fact that Mr. Sanjay Dalmia contacted the Finance Ministry and tried to pressurise the Ministry to see that further raids and investigations were stopped? Is it true that on 3rd October, in the evening, at six O'clock, the Central Excise Department was contacted and they were given instructions not to carry on the raids and investigations further?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): This question relates to the Central Excise and the question asked was about the direct taxes. The hon. member knows that almost every day, some raids take place in some parts of the country and the number goes to thousands. For instance, last year, we conducted more than 4,800 raids. If the hon. member is interested in a particular case, he will have to give a specific notice for that and I will give the information.

But only one point I can clarify. So far as raids, searches and seizures are concerned, the Ministry never interferes, and even if the Ministry interferes, the officers do not listen because these are their statutory powers and they exercise these statutory powers, and once it is set in motion, the law will take its own course of action.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I seek guidance from you. He says, this is a specific case and he will have to enquire into it and give the information. I want to point out to you that under some other rule, I had already sent to you a number of documents regarding Sikand Construction Company, the amount of taxes that they have evaded and the fraud that they have committed. I sent you photostat copies of the documents, but we do not receive any response either from your office or from the Finance Ministry. Then how do we function?

MR. SPEAKER: We immediately take action.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You do it, but what is the response? In the case of Prime Minister, I gave 115, but no reply has come from them.

MR. SPEAKER: Reply will be there. Give me the documents. I will look into it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In the case of Sikand Construction Company, I sent you the documents.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: The Central Government throughout India are taking stern action for collecting petty loans from the farmers and petty shopkeepers. The Government do not sympathise for common human beings especially the middle class people or farmers in the rural areas regarding the collection of Government debts, society loans and banks loans, whereas according to the latest reports of the economists of the country, transactions in black money to the tune of Rs. 35,000

crores take place. The black money holders, smugglers and hoarders are running a parallel Government. There are actors and actresses in the country who evade taxes in this country. There is also a Chief Minister from whom about Rs. 28 lakhs are due towards arrears of income tax, and there is also another actor, Hema Malini.... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Actress.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Mr. Swamy's close friend.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: She is not my close friend.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: About Rs. 82 lakhs are due from her.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you interested in actors, or actresses, Swamyji?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I have never met her.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: She is coming from the same place as Mr. Swamy. That is why he claimed a relationship.

Therefore, I want to know whether the Government will collect all the dues and arrears of income-tax pending for 15 years from M. G. R. and Hema Malini and from other industrialists.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not allow this.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Chief Ministers, smugglers and hoarders, big monopolists owe huge sums of income-tax. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Now, what is the question? Come to the question.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: I want to know to reduce the inflation (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question? I want you to put the question.

SHRI K. MAYAHEVAR: What are the steps taken to collect the long pending arrears of income-tax from Chief Ministers, actors and others and to reduce inflation?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Since when is Hema Malini inflated to reduce inflation?

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: He is a close friend. He knows better. Therefore, I want to know the steps that are taken by this Government to collect the long pending arrears of income-tax running into crores of rupees from big industrialists in this country who are cheating the Government and the people.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the realisation of arrears are concerned, we take all steps to recover the arrears... (*Interruptions*) including from Hema Malini.

MR. SPEAKER: They are much more interested in actresses.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: You mentioned 4,800 searches and seizures. Out of these 4,80 ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now an actor from West Bengal...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: Out of these 4,800 searches and seizure, how many prosecutions were launched? Out of the prosecutions, how many convictions were made?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Then number of raids is 4,282 and the number of prosecutions is 390. On an earlier occasion I explained why the number of prosecutions is less. As far as the number of convictions is concerned, I do not have any figures with me.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: No convictions! (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You can ask Mr. Somnath Chatterjee about the number of convictions.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not deal with such cases.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Hiralal Parmar?

श्री हीरा लाल पारमार : मैं माननीय मंत्री जो को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दो साल से गुजरात के उद्योग-पतियों और बड़े-बड़े विजनसमनों और विल्डिंग कंस्ट्रक्टरों के यहां छापे मारे गये हैं और अखबारों में यह बात आई है कि उन के यहां से दो नम्बर की बहुत सी किताबें पकड़ी गईं लेकिन एक-दो महीने के बाद वह सामला निपट जाता है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस में कोई सौदेबाजी होती है ?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a wild goose chase.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I can give the total figures, about which the hon. Member is mentioning. The action taken is not merely that we prosecute them. One of the major things is to impose the tax, assess the valuation and see what should be the tax-rate and the quantum of tax and then we take action to recover the taxes. These are all part of the action taken programme. If the hon. Member is interested in the total number, I can give. But unless he gives a specific case it is not possible to give details.

MR. SPEAKER: He is just putting a question.

Shri Manmohan Tudu.

Replacement of Vijayanta tank

375. **SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to develop a main battle tank